HIS MAIESTIES Declaration TO All His Loving Subjects.

Of the 12 of *August.* 1642.

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His Majesties Declaration, to all His Loving Subjects.

Of the 12. of *August.* 1642.

'Tis more then time, now, after ſo many Injuries, and Indignities offered to Our Royall Perſon, ſo many affronts and ſcornes put upon Our Kingly Office, ſo many Scandalous, Seditious, and Trayterous Pamphlets againſt Our Selfe, and Our Govetnment, to vindicate Our Selfe from thoſe wicked and damnable Combinations, and Conſpiracies, which the implacable Malice, and inſatiable Ambition of ſome Perſons have contrived againſt Us; and to let all Our loving Subjects know, how much they are concerned in Our ſufferings, and how much their Peace and Security is ſhaken in the Aſſaults which are made, and the Wounds which are given to Our Honour and Authority, and (how ſpecious ſoever their pretences are of Religion and Liberty) that in truth their end is nothing but Anarchie, and confuſion in either; In the relation and conſideration whereof (though We take no delight in the ſharpneſſe, and bitterneſſe of expreſſions) 'tis

no wonder, if being compelled to take notice of Actions of an high and injurious nature, and to consider and answer words impetuously directed against Majestie it selfe, We be likewise enforced to use a Dialect rougher, and different from what We have used to treat in, ('tis a weapon We blush to finde Our Selfe put to exercise) and Wee call the Almighty God to witnesse, That though Wee were extreamly sensible of the violent & unjustifiable Impositions upon Our Royall Office and Authority, of the apparent Hazard and Danger, which threatned Our owne Person, and Safety; yet not so much the particular consideration of Our Selfe, hath engaged Us in the resolution We have now taken, as the publike Care of the true Protestant Religion, the Preservation of the Law, and the Liberty of the Subject, and the upholding the whole frame and constitution of this Kingdome, so admirably founded and continued by the blessing of God, and the wisedome of Our Ancestours, to the wonder and envy of all the neighbouring Kingdoms, which the faction and ambition of a few discontented spirits, with their counterfeit shewes of Religion, and pretences of Liberty, endeavour to shake & rend asunder; and to bring Our Selfe, and all the Subjects of this Kingdome, into perpetuall Subjection unto their Vast, Unlimited, Arbitrary, Seditious Jurisdiction. Wee shall begin Our discourse from the beginning of this Parliament, (for of the unhappy dissolution of the last, by the mis-information & advice of some persons, looked upon, now, under another Character) We shall forbear to speak, being resolved, That no disregard, or undutifulnesse of other men towards

wards Us, ſhall ever prevaile with Us, to doe what Wee thinke unſuteable to the Honour and reputation of a juſt Prince, and of a good and loving Maſter.

When Wee reſolved to ſummon this Parliament (which Wee did, out of our owne earneſt and affectionate deſire to beget a good and right intelligence betweene Us and Our people, and before the meeting of Our great Councell at *York*, and uncompelled by any violence, but of Our Love to Peace) Wee preſented to our Selfe, the unhappy Condition, wherein the State of this Kingdome then ſtood, conſidered the nature of the preſſures, (then more freely repreſented to Us) which in themſelves were greivous to Our good Subjects, and in the conſequences of them, might appeare more terrible, Wee tooke a full and cleare proſpect of the inconveniences, and miſchiefes, which had growne by the long intermiſſion of Parliaments, and by the parting too much from the knowne rule of the Law, to an Arbitrary power; and upon the whole reſolved (without putting any Gloſſe upon Our owne former Commands, or endeavouring to make any excuſe for the Actions of Our Miniſters) That the meaſure of Our Juſtice, and Favour, by way of Reparation, ſhould farre exceed the proportion of the ſufferings Our good Subjects had undergone by Us, which Wee were confident would beget ſo mutuall an Affection, and confidence betweene Us, that ſuch a foundation of ſtrme and ſtable happineſſe would immediately have beene laid for the whole Kingdome; That all memory of former grievances, would have beene eaſily buried; And that this Parliament ſhould receive a glorious celebration, both by King and People, to the end of

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the world: And therefore, upon the first Convention, on the third of *November*, Wee declared Our resolution in that point, and then, or soone after, desired, that whatever mistaking had growne in the Government, either of Church or State, might be removed, and all things reduced to the Order of the time (the memory whereof is justly precious to this Nation) of Queene *Elizabeth*, and for any expression of their affection to Us, in supply of Our knowne necessities, We were so farre from pressing, Wee resolved not to thinke of it, till all Our good people should be abundantly satisfied in all necessary provision, for their Liberty and Property, and whatsoever else might disturbe them in their Estates or Consciences: How firmely We have kept Our Selfe to this Resolution, is evident to all the world.

At the beginning of the Parliament, Wee quickly discerned, by some Circumstances of their proceedings, That they meant not to confine or containe themselves within the Pathes of their Predecessors, which Wee imputed to the disorder, and impatience the former sufferings of the Kingdome had begot in them; and therefore Wee resolved to take no exceptions to any particular, but to doe Our part in any point of Reformation, as soone, and as often as any opportunity should be offered unto Us; beleeving, that as soone as they should finde themselves restored to their old security, and the matter and substance of their doubts and feares to be removed, they would easily and willingly reduce themselves into their good old way, and apply themselves to the usuall forme of their Predecessors in the course of their proceedings. And though Wee well knew the Combination entred into by severall

rall persons, for an alteration in the Government of the Church, which could not but have an Influence upon the civill Government of the State too, and observed, That those men had greatest interest and power of perswading in both Houses, who had entred into such Combination; yet Our Resolution was so full for the publike satisfaction of Our people, That we beleeved even those men would either have beene converted in their Consciences, by the clearnesse and justice of Our Actions, or would have appeared so unreasonable, or beene discovered so seditious, that their malice and fury would not have beene able to have done mischiefe; and therefore We took no notice of the great labour and skill the prime Leaders amongst them had used to get men of their faction, nominated and elected to serve as Members of the House of Commons, and did use to remove others (whom they know to be of different opinions) though they were fairely and legally elected, wherein there was no other measure or Rule of justice observed, then singly, with reference to the opinions or affections of the persons; witnesse (besides their putting out, or keeping in men upon questionable Elections, without the least colour or shadow of Justice) their Order whereby they, at one clap, expelled a very great number of Persons fairely elected by their Countrey, upon pretence, That they had some hand, or their names used in some Project, Monopoly, or Patent, without charging them with any Crime, or to this day proceeding against them; and yet they continue amongst them, Sir *Henry Mildmay*, Master *Laurence Whitakers*, and others; (whose affections and opinions they are well pleased with) though the first of them

them is notoriously known to be the chiefe Promoter of the businesse of the Gold and Silver Thread, a Commission complained of, viewed, and examined, and therefore his name might have beene easily taken notice of; and the other as conversant, and as much employed as a Commissioner in matters of that nature, as any man. Wee shall now come to recount Monopolies, the Inconveniencies of which Wee are sensible of, and shall for the future prevent; but to shew the partiality of that Faction, and the use they make of them to their owne advantage.

The first remedy (after the Impeaching severall Persons of High Treason, whom they looked upon as the chiefe causes of the publike sufferings) they proposed, was, The Bill for the Triennall Parliament; to the which (though We might justly have pausfed upon severall Expressions and Clauses in it, and might very well have insisted upon Our old Priviledge and Custome, Not to passe any Bill till the end of the Session, yet since Wee really did beleeve most of the mischiefes then complained of, proceeded from the too long intermission of Parliaments, and were resolved, for the future, to communicate freely and frequently that way with Our Subjects, Wee passed over those Exceptions and consented to it, especially upon this Confidence, That when such other Acts should bee agreed upon for the ease and security of Our People, as Wee desired and expected should be preferred to Us, this Act would be a sufficient earnest, and assurance, that all those Acts should be faithfully observed by Us, and so there should be no roome left for any Feares and Jealousies, which might prevent that mutuall

Confidence

confidence betweene Us and Our People, We earneſtly deſired to raiſe; and for ſometime after the paſſing this Act, Wee found ſuch an acknowledgement from both Houſes, of Our ſingular Grace and Favour in conſenting to it, and ſo great expreſſions of their affections and purpoſes towards Us, that Wee beleeved the ſence of it would never have beene forgotten, and were as much pleaſed that VVee had taken that way of obliging Our People, as they were with the benefit it ſelfe.

But VVe were very well able to diſcover, that whatſoever ſeemed to be asked of Us, or to be complained of to Us, there was ſtill a faction of a few Ambitious, Diſcontented, and Seditious perſons, who, under pretence of being enemies to Arbitrary Power, and of compaſſion towards thoſe, who out of tenderneſſe of Conſcience could not ſubmit to ſome things enjoyned or commended in the Government of the Church, had in truth a deſire, (and had entred into a Combination to that purpoſe) to alter the Government both of Church and State, which they were yet to diſguiſe, till, by their Art or Induſtry, they had infected ſome with their Opinions, and by their cunning Demeanour and Managery of the publique Intereſts, they had ſeduced others to an implicit confidence in their Power, VViſedome and Integrity: And againſt this Deſigne, VVee onely oppoſed a reſolution to contribute all Our aſſiſtance for the Peace, Happineſſe, and ſecurity of our People, and ſo to convince their underſtandings (if their errour proceeded from weakneſſe) that no alteration could produce that happineſſe they imagined, and (if their na-

tures were capable of ſuch truſts) to take ſome of the chiefe of them ſo neere Us, that they might be witneſſes of our Actions, and privie to Our Councels, that either ingenuity or Gratitude might recover them from their deſperate Inclinations. Hereupon becauſe moſt of the grievances of Our People were conceived to proceed from the great liberty of our Councell-board, or from ſome Orders and Directions from them, Wee admitted to Our Privie Councell ſeven or eight of thoſe Lords, who were eminently in eſteeme with our People for their reputation of Honour, and Juſtice; ſome of whom Wee knew to be moſt paſſionately diſ-inclined to the preſent managery of Civill affaires, and to the government of the Church; and hoped that by a free communication of their Doubts, Opinions, and Councels, they would have received that ſatisfaction, that they would have beene excellent Inſtruments of a bleſſed Reformation, and confirmation in Church and State. Having begun with this foundation of Confidence in Our Court, by electing ſuch Perſons, Wee made the ſame haſt to apply particular Remedies to the viſible knowne diſeaſes, reſolving thoſe Remedies ſhould be proportioned to the Councell and deſires of both Houſes, which Wee thought the ſureſt way to winne, at leaſt a Major part, to the Confeſſion and acknowledgement of Our Juſtice and Affection. The Starre-Chamber had in the exceſſe of Juriſdiction or rediouſneſſe and charge of proceedings, or meaſure, and ſeverity of puniſhment, invaded the Lawes of the Land, and Liberty of the Subject, by the exerciſe of an Arbitrary Power, Wee preſſed not the reformation of this Court, though

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erected or setled by Act of Parliament in a wise time, but, at the Instance of both Houses, consented to the abolition of it. The High Commission Court had proceeded with too much strictnesse in many cases, where the tender consciences of many of Our weake Subjects were concerned, and had so farre out-growne the power of the Law, that it would not be limited and guided by it; but censured, fined, and imprisoned Our People, for matters unpunishable by the Law: Wee pressed not the Review of that Statute by which that Court was erected, that such power might be qualified, and provisions altered, as had beene grievous to the Subject; nor desired that any other care might be taken for the upholding the Ecclesiasticall Discipline, then what the wisdom and piety of both Houses should thinke necessary, but in complyance to the sufferings of Our People, and the desires of both Houses, consented to the Repeale of that branch of that Statute. The Writs for Ship-money, whereby severall sums of money had beene received from Our good Subjects, for defence and safeguard of the Kingdome, had laine heavy upon Our People, yet were judged to be legall: Both Our Houses of Parliament declared, That the grounds and reasons of that Judgement (being that when the good and safety of the Kingdome in generall is concerned, and that the whole Kingdome is in Danger, Wee might compell Our Subjects to provide Ships, Men, and Victualls, for the defence and safeguard of the Kingdome; and that Wee were the sole Judge of that Danger, and how the same might be prevented) were contrary to, and against the Lawes, and Statutes of this Realme, the Proper-

ty and Liberty of the Subject, and to the Petition of Right; without diſputing Our Right, We were contented, that all the proceedings in that buſineſſe, ſhould be adjudged voyde and diſannulled, and the Judgements, Enrolments, and Entries thereupon ſhould be vacated, and cancelled, in ſuch manner as was deſired. Under colour of executing the Foreſt Lawes, and of keeping the Juſtice in Eyres Seat, very many Perſons had been grieved, and vexed by Preſentments, Fines, Judgments, and Impriſoments, the Meets, Limits, and Bounds of Foreſts extended, and ſome endeavours been made to ſet on foot Foreſts, where in truth none had been; We no ſooner received complaint of this, but We paſſed an Act for the certainty of the Meets, Limits, and Bounds of all the Foreſts in *England*, with ſuch further Proviſions, for the eaſe of Our Subjects, as were deſired at Our hands. If by the negligence or wilfulneſſe of perſons truſted by Us, any grievance or inconvenience had beene contracted in any part of Our Kingdome, (which ſeemed not to have ſo generall an influence upon the whole) upon the firſt cleare Information We did Our part for the eaſing of them, and therefore Wee paſſed, for the benefit of Our good Subjects of *Devon* and *Cornwall*, an Act againſt divers Incroachments, and Oppreſſions in the Stannary Courts. And We were ſo confident, this way, to win the Hearts and Affections of all Our good Subjects, and that both Our Houſes of Parliament would at laſt finde a time to give too, That We made their Asking the onely Rule to Our Grants, and parted with any thing they deſired Us to relinquiſh. So

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in the Preamble to the Bill of Tonnage and Poundage, Wee parted with Our Title of Impoſing a Power adjudged good, and exerciſed by Our Anceſtors, and though diſputed, never reſolved againſt by Judgement in Parliament. So in the Act for regulating the Office of Clerke of the Market, becauſe the undue execution thereof had beene grievous to many of Our loving Subjects, Wee conſented, That no Clerke of the Market of Our Houſe, ſhall hereafter execute His Office in any part of Our Kingdome, but onely within the verge of Our Court, and granted the execution of that Office to the Majors, and Bayliffes of Townes Corporate, and to the Lords of Liberties and Franchiſes, and to their Deputies. So, becauſe, about the beginning of Our Reigne, ſeverall Writs had iſſued out of Our Court of Chancery, in the buſineſſe of Knighthood, and been tranſmitted, with their returnes, into Our Court of Exchequer, where the proceedings were not fit and warrantable, Wee were contented, by the Act for the prevention of vexatious proceedings, touching the Order of Knighthood, abſolutely to part with, and diſcharge a right and duty, as unqueſtionably due to Us by the Law, as any Service Wee can challenge. So, (which is the higheſt inſtance of truſt that ever King gave His Subjects) upon Information, That credit could not be obtained for ſo much money, as was requiſite for the reliefe of Our Army, and People in the Northerne parts, for preventing the imminent Danger the Kingdome was in, and for ſupply of Our preſent and urgent occaſions, for feare the Parliament might be diſſolved before Juſtice ſhould be done up-

on Delinquents, publique grievances be redreſſed, a firme Peace betweene the two Nations of *England* and *Scotland* concluded, and before proviſion ſhould be made for the repayment of ſuch moneys as ſhould be ſo raiſed (though We knew what power We parted from, and truſted Our Houſes with by ſo doing, and what might be the Conſequence of ſuch a truſt, if unfaithfully managed) Wee neglected all ſuch ſuſpicions, which, all men now ſee, deſerved not to be ſleighted; And Wee willingly and immediately paſſed that Act for the continuance of this Parliament, being reſolved, That it ſhould not be Our fault, if all thoſe particulars were not ſpeedily provided for, which ſeemed then to be the grounds of their deſire. Let all the world now judge; what greater Obligations of Juſtice, Favour, Affection, and Truſt, can a Prince lay upon His Subjects, then Wee did upon both Our Houſes of Parliament by theſe Acts; And whether Wee did not, in Our free Grace and Favour, grant much more then had beene asked of Us, by that Petition preſented to Us, by ſome Lords at *Yorke*; in which was then thought to be contracted, all that was grievous to Our People, and all that was juſt and gracious for Us to doe for them. And in all the time, in which theſe Acts were framing and paſsing, though Our owne perſonall Wants were notoriouſly knowne, and unkindly unprovided for, and themſelves had asked leave to looke into, and ſettle Our Revenue, which Wee conſented to, and therefore Wee might have expected ſome fruit of that pretended Care, We never preſſed them, or made the leaſt overture to them for Our owne ſupply, onely deſired them (and 'twas almoſt

moſt the onely thing Wee did deſire of them) That they would uſe all poſſible expedition in the buſineſſe of the Treaty, that the two Armies might be ſpeedily disbanded, and Our Subjects eaſed of that heavie burthen which, in time, would grow inſupportable, and waſte the whole ſtocke of the Kingdome: But Wee found the faction Wee feared in the beginning, grew ſtill ſtronger, and nothing converted, or reconciled by all thoſe Acts of Ours, which would hove made any Nation happy; That whilſt Wee were buſie in providing for the publike, they were contriving particular Advantages of Offices, and Places for themſelves, made uſe, underhand, of the former grievances of the Subject, in things concerning Religion and Law; to change the Religion, and Law of this Kingdome; labouring, That neither any thing the Subject had ſuffered from the Crowne might be forgotten, nor any ſatisfaction from the Crowne to the Subject, might be remembred. And therefore in ſtead of acknowledging Our great Juſtice, and ſingular favour in paſſing thoſe Acts, they infuſed into Our People, That Wee paſſed them unwillingly, (whereas We never made the leaſt pauſe upon any of them but one, That for the High Commiſſion Court, and whether that was penned with that warineſſe, and Animadverſion, that there be not more determined by it, then the Major part of both Houſes intended, at the paſſing of it, let themſelues Judge) and that Wee meant not to obſerve them, and grew ſo much confounded with the full meaſure of Our favour, that they would allow themſelves no ſecurity of enjoying what Wee had freely given, but by taking away any power from Us

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of giving more, they must have a through alteration both in Church and State, or else they should never enjoy the benefit of the Reformation VVee had willingly made: Hereupon they oppose the dis-banding of the armies, and give all delayes to the Scots Treaty, though the Commissioners, for that Nation, very earnestly pressed the hastning of it, and in plaine English declare, *That they cannot yet spare them, that the sonnes of Zerviah were too strong for them*; And finding more haste to be made in the asserting the Civill Interests then they desired, having a designe to engage this Kingdome into so vast a debt, that there might be no way of paying it, but by the Lands of the Church, and lest Our good Subjects might be too soon satisfied, they hastned on to their designe upon the Church, which they at first disguised with a purpose onely of removing the Bishops from their Votes in the Lords House. This Bill passed the House of Commons; in the House of Peeres it endured severall, long, free debates; and in the end upon great and solemne deliberation, was, by the consent of very much, the major part of that House, absolutely rejected. This was no sooner done, but that faction, (glad of the miscarriage of their former Bill, the passing whereof they knew would have satisfied many of those whom they hoped now further to seduce) produced a Bill to be tendred in the House of Commons for the abolition of Bishops out of the Church of *England*, Root and Branch, (according to their first resolution, as Mr *Pym* told a Member of the Lords House, by way of reproofe, *That it was not enough to be against the persons of the Bishops, if he were not against the Function,*)

Master Strowd.

and

and for extirpation of all Deanes and Chapters, and reducing that admirable frame of Government, and support of Learning into a *Chaos* of Confusion, that out of it they might mold an *Utopia* no sixe of the which, nor Wee beleeve yet hath agreed oh, further then to destroy the present, and out of the goodly revenue which the pious bounty and devotion of former Ages had beene so long in raising, for the encouragement and advancement of Learning and Religion, and which God hath blessed with so many eminent men, whose learning and lives have advanced the Doctrine of the Protestant Religion, and many of them given their Bodies to the Fire, as a Sacrifice to that Truth and Religion, to erect Stipends to their owne Clergie, and to raise estates to repaire their own broken fortunes, And for the free passing of this Bill (which to this houre they could never tell what to make of) two Armies must be kept in the bowels of the Kingdome at 80000. pound a Moneth charge to the the Commonwealth: For about this Bill the House of Commons was so wholly taken up, that in seaven weekes, scant, or very little other businesse could be thought of. About this time, or a little before, (after severall Intimations of Treasons, Plots, and Conspiracies by the Papists, of great Provisions of Armes by them, and training men under ground, and many other false reports, created, spread, and countenanced by themselves) upon some generall apprehensions of designes against them, a Protestation is made in the House of Commons, for some union and consent amongst themselves, to performe those duties (which if they had meant no more then they expressed, had beene sufficiently provi-

ded for, by the oathes they had already taken, and what their former duties obliged them to.) Hereupon a Protestation is framed, and beeing put into such words, as no honest man could beleeve himselfe obliged by it to any unlawfull action, was voluntarily taken by all the Members of the House of Commons, and presently recommended to the House of Lords, where it received the same countenance, that is, was looked upon, as containing nothing in it selfe unlawfull, though some members of that House, refused to take it, beeing voluntary, and not imposed by any lawfull authority: Then 'tis recommended to the City of *London*, and over all the Kingdome, by order from the House of Commons (a strange and unheard of usurpation) to be taken by all persons: But in very few dayes upon conference amongst themselves and with those Clergy men, who daily solicit their unlawfull and unwarrantable designes with the people, they finde they were, by this Protestation, so farre from having drawne people into their Combination, that in truth all men conceived that they were even engaged by it, against their main designe, by promising *to defend the true reformed Protestant Religion, expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England, &c.* And thereupon some persons of that Faction prevailed, that after the Members of the Houses had taken it, a Declaration was set forth by the House of Commons, That by those words, *The Doctrine of the Church of England*, was intended onely so farre as it was opposite to Popery and popish innovations, and that the words were not to be extended to the maintenance of the *Discipline and Government, &c.* And so under this Explication and

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Declaration published onely by the House of Commons, and never assented to by the House of Peeres, this Protestation was directed to be generally taken throughout *England*, And to that purpose a Bill is drawne, passed the House of Commons, and sent up to the Lords; who, at the second reading, finding many particulars in it unfit to be so severely imposed upon the Subject, absolutely rejected. Upon this ensued a new and unheard of distemper in the House of Commons, as if it had beene great presumption in the House of Peeres to refuse any Bill sent from them, and thereupon a Vote passed in the House of Commons, That that House did conceive that the Protestation made by them, is fit to be taken by every person that is well affected in Religion, and to the good of the Common-wealth, And therefore doth declare, That what person soever shall not take the Protestation, is unfit to beare Office in the Church or Common-wealth, And ordered, That the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses should send downe to the severall places for which they serve, Copies of that Vote of the House concerning the Protestation, and that those Votes should be printed. Let all men judge whether before that time, from the beginning of Parliaments, the House of Commons had ever presumed to trench so farre upon Our Priviledge, to make a Declaration so like Law without Us; or upon the Priviledge of the Lords, to make and publish such a Declaration, after they had rejected the Bill, and some of them refused to take the Protestation; or upon the liberty of the Subject, so farre to impose any such thing upon them, without consent of Parliament: Yet of this We tooke

no notice, but pressed still the disbanding of the Armies, and interposed and quickned them in nothing else, which was againe with all earnestnesse desired by the *Scots* at *Newcastle*, and pressed by their Commissioners at *London*. But a new fright was now found to startle the People, and to bring Us into Hatred or Jealousie with them; the generall Rumors of Treasons and Conspiracies began to lose credit with all men, who began to consider what they felt, more then what others feared; and therefore they had now found out a Treason indeed, even ready to be put in execution upon the whole Kingdome, the Representative body thereof, A Plot to bring up the whole Army out of the Northerne parts to *London*. A strange plot indeed, which, considering the constitution of that time, no man can believe Us guilty of; and though they made great use of it, to the filling the mindes of Our People with feares and apprehensions, they seemed not then to charge Us with any knowledge of, or privity to it. What they have done since, all the world knowes, notwithstanding Our many Protestations in that point; And We cannot but say, That by those examinations of Colonell *Goring*, Sir *Jacob Ashley*, and Sir *John Conyers*, and Master *Piercy*'s letter, which is all the evidence We have seene, and by which they seeme principally to be guided, We cannot satisfie Our owne private Conscience, That there was ever a resolution of bringing up the Army to *London*; and upon the strictest examination We can make of that businesse, We can finde it to be no other then this: Observation being made of the great Tumults about *Westminster*, which seemed to threaten the safety of the Members

of

of both Houses, at least of those who were known not to agree with the designes of that Faction, We have before spoken of, and the manner of delivering Petitions by multitudes of people attested (or pretended to be so) by the hands of many thousands, against the knowne Lawes, and established Government of the Kingdome, which yet seemed to receive some countenance, and to carry some Authority, as instances of the affections of so many persons, it fell into the thoughts of some Officers of the Army, of knowne and publike affections to their Country, That a Petition of a modest and a dutifull nature from the whole Army, for the composing and setling all grievances in the Church and State by Law, might, for the reason of it, prevaile with the whole House, and coming from such a body, might confirme those who might be shaken with any feares of Power or Force by the Tumults; and with this Proposition Wee being made acquainted, gave Our full approbation to it, taking great care that no Circumstances in the framing it, or delivering it, might bee any blemish to the matter of it. This, Wee call God to witnesse, as We have done before, was all Wee gave Our consent unto, or which Wee beleeve was ever intended to be put in practice, (what attempts other men made to seduce the affections of the Army from Us, is knowne to many.) If in the managery of this debate, any rash discourses happened of bringing up the Army, it is evident, whether they were proposed in earnest or no, they were never entertained, and the whole matter laid aside, above two Moneths before any discovery, so that that Danger was never prevented by the Power or Wisdome

of Parliament: And for the Petition it selfe, which hath beene so often pressed against Us, as a speciall Argument of our privitie, to the bringing up the Army, after Wee have so fully, and particularly answered every particular circumstance of that Petition, signed with C. R. Wee have herewith published a true Copie of that Petition. That all Our good Subjects may see how justly VVe have beene traduced; and judge, when Petitions of all Natures were so frequently, and so willingly received, whether such a Petition, might not, with modesty and duty enough, have beene presented unto them. And if in truth, that designe of bringing up the Army had beene then believed, when it was first pretended to be discovered, which was about the middle of *May*, They would surely have thought it necessary to have disbanded that Army sooner then *August*, which no pressing of Ours, nor of Our *Scots* Subjects, could perswade them to do, And Wee are sure Our Innocence in that matter, would soone have appeared, if the large time to bring this businesse to a Judiciall tryall, had beene made use of; If, contrary to all Custome, it had not beene thought fit to publish Depositions before the parties concerned had beene heard to make their defence, or witnesses crosse-examined, though they attended above twelve Moneths to doe it: And if some men had not believed that their generall and violent expressions, affirming this to be a plot equall to that of the Gun-powder-Treason, would sooner be believed, if it were not publikely discussed, but left to every mans fancie to heighten, according to his owne Inclinations, and had not feared, that if the whole examinations taken

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(and not such onely as they pleased to select) had come to light, it would have appeared, by the examination of Master *Goring* (purposely suppresst) with what intention, that mention of bringing up the Army was made, with what earnestnesse it was opposed, and with what suddennesse it was deferred, and many extenuations of, and many other contradictions to what is now published, would have appeared, and this impossible Stratagem, with which they have so much disturbed Our Subjects, and reproached Us, could never have beene made so much use of.

After all this readinesse in Us to doe whatsoever they desired of Us, and patience in suffering them to doe whatsoever they pleased to Us, Wee gave them warning, That if there were any more good Bills, which they desired might passe, for the benefit of Our Subjects, Wee wished they might bee made ready against such a time, when We resolved, according to Our promise to Our *Scots* Subjects (with which they were well acquainted) to repaire into Our Kingdome of *Scotland*, to settle the unhappy differences there; Upon this We were earnestly desired, by both Our Houses of Parliament, to deferre Our Journey thither, as well upon pretence of the Danger, if both Armies were not first disbanded, as that they had many good Lawes in readinesse, for the setling the differences here; We were by their entreaty, perswaded to deferre Our Journey to a day agreed on by themselves, assuring Our Selfe that they would thinke themselves, obliged against that time, not onely to disband Our Armies, but so to prepare and digest the businesse of Parliament, That Wee might have made a

Session

Session before our going: But that Malignant Faction was so prevalent, that the debate of the Bishops Bill tooke up most of their time, so that neither any care was taken for the disbanding the Army, nor any thing done, that had any reference to the publique benefit: and when the time of Our stay was expired, and even the day come themselves had appointed, a new addresse was made to Us, for a longer stay of 14. dayes, because the treaty was not concluded, nor the Armies disbanded, which was the maine ground of Our deferring it before. This suit (which was the first Wee denied them) Wee could not grant, there being that necessitie with reference to Our promise, and to the expectation of Our Subjects of *Scotland*, That it was not in Our power to satisfie them, as Wee informed both Houses Our selfe at a conference; and according to that necessity, Wee undertooke that Journey, not doubting but that when Wee should have dispatched the affaires of that Kingdome, which Wee hoped speedily to do, and both Our Houses of Parliament should have refreshed themselves in the Visitation of those, for whom they had so well provided, by Our favour, Wee should meet againe, with mutuall Confidence one in another, and that it would be Our turne then to receive such Testimonies, of that confidence and affection as Wee had deserved.

But the mischievous and indefatigable industry of that malignant party, which had before Our going, interrupted that Correspondence which Wee deserved from Our people, had with no lesse malice provided for Our reception at Our returne; instead of reducing businesse to that head, That the distractions of

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the Kingdome might be compoſed by the due obſervation and execution of the Lawes, Wee found things farre more out of order, then Wee left them, and Our good Subjects more puzled to know their duties; Orders had beene made in the Houſe of Commons, and publiſhed in derogation of the Booke of Common Prayer, and for ſuſpenſion of thoſe Lawes in force, which concerned the government of the Church, and though another Order of the Lords was likewiſe publiſhed according to Law, for the due obſervation of the Laws eſtabliſhed, and for ſuppreſſing thoſe diſorders which were every day breaking out, by the faction of meane looſe perſons, againſt the Divine Service appointed by Law, the Houſe of Commons tooke upon them publikely to declare againſt that Order, becauſe it was onely made with the conſent of eleven Lords, and that nine other Lords did then diſſent from it, whereas in truth the ſaid Order, was made in a full Houſe in *January* before, and onely Ordered then by that difference of number to be printed, after the Houſe of Commons had made (in a very thin Houſe, and after it had beene rejected by Vote) that illegall Order, for ſuch alteration in the Church; and if in truth it had beene then made, and but by the oddes of two voyces, being in purſuance of the Law, all men will thinke it of much more validitie then any order of the Houſe of Commons againſt the Law; which in truth, hath no authority to make any Orders in buſineſſe of that nature; and therefore the publiſhing of that Order, and Declaration of the ninth of *September* muſt be confeſſed by all men, to be ſuch a breach, and violation of the priviledge of

the Peeres Houſe, (beſides the affront offered to Us, and injury to Our good Subjects, and to the Law by it) that before this Parliament, was never heard of; and was an apparent evidence, That they meant the whole Managery of the Kingdome, and the Legiſlative power ſhould be undertaken by the houſe of Commons, without the conſent, either of Us, or Our Nobilitie. Yet the execution of this Order was with great Diligence and Animoſitie preſſed upon Our good Subjects, and many troubled and impriſoned for not ſubmitting thereunto. When they had made this breach upon the Eccleſiaſticall State, They tooke care (under pretence of encouragement of Preaching) to erect Lectures in ſeverall Pariſhes, and to commend ſuch Lecturers as beſt ſuited with their deſignes, men of no Learning, no Conſcience, but furious Promoters of the moſt dangerous Innovations, which were ever induced into any State; many of them having taken no Orders, yet recommended by Members of either Houſe to Pariſhes, as at *Lenſham* in *Kent*, and many other places; And when Mechanick perſons have beene brought before them, for preaching in Churches, and confeſſed the ſame, the power of theſe Grand Reformers have beene ſo great, that they have beene diſmiſſed without puniſhment, hardly with Reprehenſion: All perſons of Learning, and eminencie in preaching, of ſober and vertuous converſations, and great examples in their lives, even ſuch, as amongſt theſe men had beene of greateſt eſtimation, and ſuffered ſomewhat for them, were diſcountenanced, and ſuch men principally cheriſhed, who boldly, and ſeditiouſly, preached againſt

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the Government of the Church, against the Booke of Common Prayer, against Our Kingly lawfull Power, and against Our Person; many of which were commended to (if not imposed upon) Parishes, first by speciall Letters, and earnest Sollicitations from the prime Leaders of this Turbulent Faction; after by Orders requiring such Ministers, as would not accept their recommendations, to attend and shew cause. All license was given to those Lewd, Seditious Pamphlets, which despised the Government both of the Church and State, which laid any Imputations and Scornes upon Our Person or Office, and which filled the Eares of all Our good Subjects, with Lyes and monstrous Discourses, to make them beleeve all the ill of the Government, and Governors of Church and State; Bookes against the Booke of Common Prayer, and the established Lawes of the Land, suffered, without reprehension, to be dedicated to both Houses of Parliament; whatsoever the rancour and venome of any Infamous Person could digest, published without controll; And nothing discountenanced and reproached, but a dutifull regard of Us and Our Honour, and a sober esteeme and application to the Lawes of the Kingdome. This was the condition Wee found at Our returne from *Scotland*, besides a strange groundlesse apprehension of danger, infused generally into the mindes of Our good Subjects, as if some notable designe were in hand against the Parliament, against the Citie of *London*, against the whole Kingdome of *England*. There fell out an accident whilest Wee were in *Scotland*, concerning the Marquesses of *Hamilton* and *Argile*;

gile; Thoſe two Lords upon ſome information given to them, that their perſons were in danger, upon a ſudden withdrew themſelves from the Parliament in *Scotland*, and for ſome few dayes removed out of *Edinburgh*; what ever they had been informed, and what ever they ſuſpected, the grounds of both were very fully examined by the Parliament there, their perſons being of that quality and eſtimation in that Kingdome, that they were ſure of Juſtice; upon the whole, themſelves and the Parliament were ſatisfied, that the Information firſt given to them, could not be made good to the proof of any deſigne to the danger of theſe Lords, and the examinations of the whole matter, ſent by Our direction to Our Parliament here. How (if all had beene true that was imagined) this buſineſſe could ſo highly and nearely concerne the peace of this Kingdome, and the preſent ſafety of both Our Houſes of Parliament, Wee cannot imagine: Yet upon the firſt report of it here (which was the day before the firſt meeting after the receſſe) without ſtaying to heare the opinion of Our Parliament there, who uſed all diligence in the examination, or of Our Parliament here, ſuch ſtrange Gloſſes and Interpretations were made upon that accident (not without reflection upon Us, and Our Honour) as if at the ſame time there had beene ſuch a Deſigne to have beene executed here, as they had fancied to themſelves that to be; and a ſudden reſolution was taken, Firſt, by the Committee, during the Receſſe; after, by the Houſes, to have a Guard for the defence of *London*, *Weſtminſter*, and both Our Houſes of Parliament; which muſt needes make a great Impreſſion in the mindes of Our good

Subjects,

Subjects, in a time when they were newly freed from the feares of two Armies, to be awaked with the apprehension of dangers; of which, seeing no ground, they were to expect no end.

Matters being thus stated, and all possible skill being used by that Faction, and by their Emissaries of the Clergie, (who, at the same time, such Clamour was raised, of the unlawfulnesse that the Clergie should meddle in Temporall affaires, were their chiefe Agents to derive their seditious directions to the people, and were all the week attending the doores of both Houses, to be imployed in those errands) to infuse the most desperate feares into the mindes of all men that could be imagined. To be sure that the memory of former bitternesse might not depart, they provide for Our entertainment against We should come to *London*, to present Us with a Remonstrance (as they called it) of the State of the Kingdome; laying before Us, and publishing to all the world, all the mistakes, and all the misfortunes which had hapned from Our first coming to the Crowne; and before, to that houre, forgetting the blessed condition (notwithstanding the unhappy mixture) all Our Subjects had enjoyed in the benefit of peace and plenty under Us, to the envie of Christendome; objecting to Us the actions of some, and the thoughts of others; and reproaching Us with matters which indeed never entred into Our thoughts, nor, to Our knowledge, into the thoughts of any other; Reviling Us to the people, and complaining to Us of the House of Peeres, (whose authority, interest, and priviledge, was then as much sleighted and despised as Ours is since) and easily pas-

ſing over thoſe ſingular Acts of Our Grace paſſed by Us this Parliament, or aſcribing them to their owne wiſdome in the procurement, They concluded againſt a Malignant Party, and that they had no hope of ſetling the diſtractions of the Kingdome for want of concurrence with the Houſe of Peeres, and that concurrence was deſperate by reaſon of the Prevalency of the Biſhops, and of the Recuſant Lords, into which number all thoſe Lords were caſt, who preſumed to diſſent from any Propoſitions made by the Houſe of Commons. When this engine was prepared for the People, by the prime Leaders of that deſperate Faction, it was preſented to the Houſe of Commons, and the greateſt induſtry, and skill uſed that is imaginable, by private Sollicitations, Threats, and Promiſes, to procure conſent, that it might be paſſed by that Houſe, and after a long debate (longer then ever was knowne in Parliament, till three of the clock in the morning, from ten the day before, when very many, through wearineſſe, and weakeneſſe, were forced to leave the Houſe; So that it looked (as was well ſaid) like the Verdict of the Starved Jury) they carryed it by eleven Voyces. And ſhortly, within very few dayes after Our returne (when We had beene received, with all poſſible expreſſions of joy, by Our Citie of *London*, which was publikely murmured againſt, and the chiefe advancers of that duty and affection diſcountenanced, as if they envyed Us, the Loyalty of Our People, and when it was publikely ſaid in Our Houſe of Commons, upon ſome diſpute, of a pretended breach of the Orders of the Houſe, *That their Diſcipline ought to be ſeuere*

for

for the Enemy was in view) that Remonſtrance was preſented to Us at Our Court, at *Hampton* Court, by ſome Members of the Houſe of Commons, with a Petition (contracting the ſharpe Language in the Remonſtrance into leſſe roome) amongſt other things, That Wee would concurre with Our people, for depriving the Biſhops of their Votes in Parliament, (for which there was then no Bill paſſed both Houſes) and to employ ſuch perſons about Us, as Our Parliament might confide in. Wee received this ſtrange Petition, and ſtranger Remonſtrance, graciouſly from the hands of the Preſenters, promiſed them an Anſwer, and in the meane time deſired, That the Remonſtrance might not be publiſhed to the people, the thing it ſelfe, and the printing any thing of the like nature, being never heard of, by the direction of the Houſe of Commons, till this Parliament, it being the firſt appeale to the people, and of a dangerous conſequence to Parliaments themſelves. But (as in other things, neither Our deſires, or Commands, have beene conſidered) without giving Us leaſure, to anſwer either the one or the other, ſpeciall direction is given, for the printing that Remonſtrance, and equall care taken for the publiſhing it in all places, and parts of the Kingdome.

Having taken this care for the ſhaking, and perplexing the minds of all men, The next worke was to get ſuch a power into their hands, as might governe and diſpoſe of thoſe affections: To this purpoſe, they had from the beginning of the Parliament (by reaſon of ſome complaints againſt the immoderate exerciſe of the authority of the Lieutenants, and their deputies in

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raiſing Coat and Conduct-money, and ſome exceſſes in them) had ſeverall debates in the diminution of the Office it ſelfe, but ſtill grounded upon the illegall preſſures uſed by them, and upon ſome words in the Commiſſion it ſelfe, which (though of long uſage in very happy dayes) were conceived not agreeable to the Law; but they were ſo far from ſuppoſing the Office it ſelfe, or Commiſſion to be illegall, that both Houſes of Parliament had recommended two Lords to Us, and deſired Our Commiſſion to make them Lords Lieutenants of *Yorkeſhire*, and *Dorſetſhire*; the onely end ſeeming then to be, That good and approved men ſhould be in thoſe imployments and truſts. But at laſt they reſolved againſt the Office it ſelfe, and would think of ſome other way to provide for the ſafety of the Kingdome in that point; and in this they had a double end: Firſt, to fright all perſons (Members of both Houſes, who had been Lieutenants, and Deputy-Lieutenants) to comply with them in their Votes, leſt they ſhould be called in queſtion for the execution of thoſe Offices (a Stratagem they had found to engage many perſons to their opinions, as Sheriffes for the collecting Ship-money, and all other perſons who in truth were, or might be made obnoxious to their power) then that by unſetling that whole buſineſſe of the *Militia*, throughout the Kingdom, They might the more eaſily bring in their owne power of governing it, as they have ſince endeavoured to doe; And thereupon they preſumed to bring in ſuch a Bill into the Houſe of Commons, to place a Generall at Land, and an Admirall at Sea, by Act of Parliament, with ſuch Power and Authority over the Lives, and Fortunes,

of

of all Our Subjects as ſhould be lyable to no controll nor to bee queſtioned by any Superintendent hand, with a pre-pardon for whatſoever they ſhould do, under colour of thoſe Offices, either of which Officers ſhould have been a much greater man then Our ſelf, and commanded in Our Kingdome above Us; the matter of which Bill, to ſhew their deſigne is ſince diſgeſted into their new Generals Commiſſion, and the pretended Ordinance to the Earle of *Warwicke*. And all this was then pretended to be a matter of abſolute neceſſity for the preſervation of Us and Our Kingdom, but at that time it could procure no other credit, then to be ſuffered to reſt in the Houſe, as an evidence of the liberty might be uſed in the preferring of Bills. They had by this time taken all the licence at their private Cabals, to undervalue and vilifie Our Perſon and Our Power; and in publike, to give way and countenance to any ſcandals upon Us; Letters from the Major of *Plymouth*, that the Rebels in *Ireland* call themſelves, *The Queenes Army*; and pretend the Kings authority for what they do: and ſtore of ſuch diſcourſes, upon ſuch evidence, is every weeke printed in the Journals of the Houſe, which, without doubt, muſt be of great authority with Our people, who muſt conceive ſuch Informations to be not only fully and cleerly proved, but to be accepted and publiſhed upon very weighty reaſons above the conſideration of Our Honour and Safety.

And now they were to examine, what notable credit their Remonſtrance, and their other generall Infuſions had got with the people, and how ready they would be upon any occaſions to venture themſelves

at their direction. They had made themselves so terrible in the House of Commons, that by their Threats and their Promises of places and preferments to severall men, and by the absence of many, they had gotten the major part: But in the House of Lords, their power was not the same, that must be wrought another way, yet there they had used all means to prevail upon the hopes and fears of such who they thought might that way be dealt with; witnesse, among many other things of the same nature, that insolent Speech of Mr *Pym* to the Earle of *Dover*, *That if hee looked for any preferment, hee must comply with them in their wayes, and not hope to have it by serving Us.* Shortly after their coming together upon the Recesse, a new Bill was preferred in the House of Commons, for the taking away of the Votes of Bishops out of the House of Peers; which being once rejected before, ought not, by the Course and Order of Parliament, to have been admitted again the same Session: but that was easily over-ruled, and in the House of Commons it did passe, many good men the more willingly concurring therin, upon hope that that Bill being once consented to the fury of that faction which with so great violence pursued an absolute destruction of the Ecclesiasticall Government, would be abated, or that rage being discerned, they would loose that strength which supported them. But the Lords quickly found, That the Ring-leaders of that Faction had not ingenuity enough to be compounded with; and therefore with them it was not like to finde so easie a passage. Now their resort was to the people, whom upon severall occasions, they had trayned downe to Westminster in great

great multitudes, with Swords and Clubs, and had often ſent for them, when any debate was like to be carried againſt them in either Houſe, The particulars whereof We are ready to prove.

Every man will conceive We were in a great ſtraight, to finde Our Selfe ſo much diſappointed of that returne, the conſciouſneſſe of Our owne merit, and the many glorious profeſſions made by both Houſes, bad Us to expect. We ſaw the Lawes abſolutely trampled under feet, and a Deſigne laid to ruine the Government of the Kingdome, and to deſtroy Us and Our Poſterity. Wee ſaw this Deſigne carried by a few men, whoſe hatred and malice to Our Perſon Wee found implacable, and their contempt of Us and Our Authority ſo viſible and notorious, that they forbore not to expreſſe it in their mention of Us in all Companies. We ſaw their Power and Intereſt to be ſo great, that they were able to miſ-leade very many honeſt men, and to countenance their actions, under the name of both Houſes of Parliament. We were reſolved, that nothing they ſhould doe within thoſe walls ſhould provoke Us, till time and the experience good men ſhould have of them, ſhould diſcover their purpoſes; therefore We applyed Our Selfe onely to the Law, hoping that the Inſolence and Licentiouſneſſe of the People might, by Our helpe, bee curbed by that Rule. The Tumults grew ſo notorious, and ſo dangerous, That they Threatned and Aſſaulted the Members of both Houſes; whereupon the Houſe of Peeres (which it ſeemes the Lords preſent at the paſſing of one of their late Declations, wherein they deny there have beene any Tumults, had forgot) at a Conference

with the Houſe of Commons, twice very earneſtly deſired, That they would, for the dignity of Parliaments, joyne with them in a Declaration, for the ſuppreſſing ſuch Tumults: But the prevalency of that Faction was ſo great, that though complaint was made by Members in the Houſe of Commons, That they had beene aſſaulted, and evill intreated by thoſe People, even at the doore of their Houſe; inſtead of joyning with the Lords, for the ſuppreſſing or puniſhing them, ſeverall Speeches were made in juſtification of them, and commending their affections, Saying, *They muſt not diſcourage their friends, this being a time, they muſt make uſe of all their friends*: And Maſter *Pym* ſaying, *God forbid, that the Houſe of Commons ſhould proceed in any way to diſhearten people to obtaine their juſt deſires, in ſuch a way*; Which he had good reaſon to ſay, himſelfe and thoſe other perſons, whom We afterwards accuſed of High Treaſon, having, by great ſollicitation, and encouragement, cauſed thoſe multitudes to come downe in that manner. The Lords having in vaine tryed this way, appoint (upon the advice of the Judges) that a Writ be directed to the Sheriffe, and Juſtices, upon divers Statutes (which iſſued accordingly) to ſuppreſſe, and hinder all tumultuous reſort, in obedience to which the Juſtices, and other Miniſters appoint the Conſtables, to attend about *Weſtminſter*, to hinder that unlawfull conflux of People: This was no ſooner done, but the Conſtables, and Juſtices of the Peace, were ſent for by the Houſe of Commons; the ſetting ſuch a watch, Voted to be a breach of Priviledge, and before any Conference with the Lords, by whoſe direction

that

that legall Writ issued out, the watch discharged, and one of the Justices, for doing his duty, according to that Writ, sent to the Tower. About the same time there was a Tumultuous Assembly of Brownists, Anabaptists, and other Sectaries called together, by the Sound of a Bell, into a place in Southwarke, where the Armes, and Magazine for that Burrough were kept; The Constable knowing such meetings to be unlawfull, and the consequences of them, especially in such places, to bee very dangerous, came amongst them; he was no sooner come, but he was reproached with words, beaten and dragged in a very barbarous manner, insomuch, as hee hardly escaped from them with his life; Complaint was made by him to the next Justices, and Oath made of the truth of that Complaint, whereupon a Writ was sent to the Sheriffe to impannell a Jury, according to the Law, for the examination, and finding of this Riot. This was complained of too, and the meeting (in how tumultuous and disorderly a manner soever) pretended to be onely for the drawing of a Petition against Bishops, and that the Constable was a friend to Bishops, and came to crosse them, and to hinder men from subscribing that Petition: Hereupon an Order was made in the House of Commons, and the under-Sheriffe of *Surrey* by it enjoyned, That he should not suffer any proceedings to bee made upon any inquisition that might concerne any persons who met together, to subscribe a Petition, to be preferred to that House. What Authority the House of Commons had, or have, to send any such Injunctions, Wee cannot conceive; yet by this, any disorderly persons (let their Intenti-

ons, and demeanour bee never so Seditious) are above the reach of the Law and Justice, if they please to say, They meet to prepare any Petition to the House of Commons. And 'tis no wonder, if, after all this Care taken, to remove all those obstacles the Law had put in the way to such Tumults, all people tooke upon them to visite Our Parliament in such manner as they thought fit, and thereupon great multitudes of mutinous people, every day resorted to *Westminster*, threatned to pull downe the Lodgings where divers of the Bishops lay, assaulted some in their Coaches, chased others with Boats by Water, laid violent hands on the Archbishop of *Yorke*, in his passing to the House, and had he not been rescued by force, it is probable, they had murthered him; Crying through the Streets, *Westminster-Hall*, and betweene the two Houses, *No Bishops*, *No Bishops*, *No Popish Lords*; and misused the severall Members of either House, who they were informed, favoured not their Desperate and Seditious ends, Proclaiming the names of severall of the Peeres, as *Evill and Rotten-hearted Lords*; attempting the defacing the Abbey at *Westminster*, with great Violence, and in their returne from thence, made a Stand before Our Gate at *White-Hall*, said, *They would have no more Porters-Lodge, but would speake with the King when they pleased*; And used such desperate rebellious discourse, that We had great reason to beleeve Our owne Person, Our Royall Consort, and Our Children to be in evident Danger of violence, and therefore were compelled, at Our great charge, to entertaine a Guard for securing Us from that Danger: And yet all this Danger is so

sleighted,

ſleighted, that Wee are told in the laſt Declaration, after Wee have ſo often urged it, *That it is a ſuggeſtion as falſe, as the Father of Lies can invent.*

Theſe Licentious and unpuniſhed Tumults, gave occaſion to the Biſhops, (who could not repaire to the Houſe without Danger of their lives) to make that their Proteſtation, for the which they were forthwith accuſed of High Treaſon by the Houſe of Commons, and committed to the Tower by the Houſe of Peeres, where they continued, for the ſpace of foure Moneths at the leaſt.

That ſmall guard Wee had taken for our neceſſary ſafety, and the reſort of ſome Officers (who attended both our Houſes of Parliament, for money due to them by Act of Parliament, and upon the publike faith) to Our Court for Our defence againſt thoſe Tumults, was objected againſt Us, and diverſe counterfeit Letters were written, and ſenſleſſe feares infuſed into the Citizens of *London*, That Wee had a deſigne of actuall violence upon that City, and thereupon they were drawne into Armes, and put upon their Guard againſt Us. So that there was not onely no proviſion made for the ſuppreſſing of Tumults, but that proviſion the Law had made againſt them, diſcountenanced and taken away, and Wee Our ſelfe cenſured for taking ſo much ſtrength about Us, as might, for ſome time, oppoſe ſuch force as was like to be offered to Our owne Gates. What ſhould VVee do? VVe very well knew the Contrivers of all theſe miſchiefes, who had, by their exceeding Induſtry, and Malice, wrought this diſtraction throughout the Kingdome, ſuch a defection of Allegiance in the Common people,

people ſuch a Dampe of Trade in the City, and ſo horrid a Confuſion in the Church, and all this to ſatisfie their owne private Ends, and Ambition; For themſelves know what overtures have beene made by them, and with what importunity, for Offices and Preferments, what great ſervices ſhould have beene done for Us, and what other undertakings were (even to have ſaved the life of the Earle of *Straffford*) if Wee would confer ſuch Offices upon them. We were ſure Wee could make ſuch particular proofes againſt them of a ſolemne combination entred into by them for altering the government of the Church and State; Of their deſigning Offices to themſelves and other men; of their ſolliciting and drawing downe the Tumults to *Weſtminſter*; and of their bidding the People, in the height of their rage and fury, to go to *Whitehall*; Of their ſcornfull and odious mention of Our Perſon; And their deſigne of getting Our Sonne, the Prince, into their hands; Of their treating with Forraigne Power to aſſiſt them, if they ſhould faile in their enterpriſes: Yet Wee ſaw too, that their Intereſt and reputation was ſo great with many of both Houſes of Parliament, their power ſo abſolute with a multitude of Brownifts, Anabaptiſts, and other Sectaries about *London*, who were ready to appeare in a body at their command, that it would be a hard matter to proceed againſt them. In this ſtraight, Wee reſolved to do our part in both, to give our people a cleare ſatisfaction of Our upright Intentions to the publike, whereby they ſhould finde their happineſſe, did not at all depend on ſuch Inſtruments; and to proceed againſt the perſons of the other in a legall way,

way, that all the world might see, What Ambition, Malice, and Sedition had been hid under the Vizard of Conscience and Religion. Hereupon We prepared an Answer to the Remonstrance the House of Commons had before published to the People, of the State of the Kingdom; wherein, without taking notice of the uncomely Language in, and the Circumstances of that Remonstrance, We declared with as gracious, and full expressions as We could make, Our earnest Resolutions, for the maintenance of the true Protestant Religion, the Liberty, and Property of the Subject, and the Law of the Land; and made no lesse gracious offers to consent to any Act that should be offered for the ease of tender Consciences, in matters indifferent, and very earnestly desired, That the same might be provided, and what ever else should be thought necessary for the Peace and Security of Our People; and then that We might likewise manifest the Actions of that Malignant Party, which had done so much mischief, and intended so much more, We resolved to accuse the Lord *Kymbolton*, Maister *Hollis*, Maister *Pym*, Maister *Hampden*, and Maister *Strode*, (who had so Malitiously contrived the ruine of Our Self, and the established Government of this Church and Kingdom) and Sir *Arthur Haslerig*, who had been made their Instrument, to obey and execute their bold and wild designes of High Treason, as We had great reason to do, hoping that their duty due to Vs, and the Obligations Wee had put upon Our People this Parliament, would never suffer the Interest, and reputation of these men, to be laid in the scale, and to overweigh Our Regall Authority,

and the Law of the Land, but that Wee ſhould have found a way open, to a faire and Legall Triall of them, which was all Wee deſired. How Our proceeding was in that buſineſſe, and Our managery of it, We have truly and at large ſet forth, in Our Anſwer to the Declaration of both Houſes of the nineteenth of *May*, That what Wee did firſt in acquainting the Houſe of Commons, with Our Accuſation, by Our Serjeant at Arms, was in Correſpondence, and out of regard to that Houſe, that We might rather have them delivered to the Hands of Juſtice by them, then apprehend them by an Ordinary Miniſter of Juſtice; which We were, and are aſſured, what ever Doctrine is preached to the Contrary, Wee might well have done in the caſe of Treaſon, otherwiſe that *Maxime* in the Law, acknowledged in a Petition of both Houſes to Vs, in the beginning of Our Reign, in the Caſe of the Earle of *Arundell*, That in Caſe of Treaſon, Felony, and breach of Peace, Priviledge of Parliament doth not extend, is of no ſignification: The words are: *They finde it an undoubted Right, and conſtant Priviledge of Parliament, That no Member of Parliament (ſitting the Parliament, or within the uſuall times of Priviledge of Parliament) is to be impriſoned or reſtrained, without Sentence, or Order of the Houſe, unleſſe it be for Treaſon, Felony, or for refuſing to give Suerties for the Peace.* In thoſe Caſes 'twas then thought a Member of either Houſe was not to be diſtinguiſhed from another Subject; And why We might not as well have expected, that upon Our Articles (not ſo generall as a meer verball Accuſation) of High Treaſon, either Houſe would have committed their ſeverall Mem-

bers,

bers, as they had done to many this Parliament, and about that time Twelve together (upon a Confessed ground, which every man there, who knew what Treason was, knew that fact to be none) meerly because they were accused; And as the House of Peers had formerly done a Member of that House, (the Earl of *Bristoll*) accused in the same manner, most of the good Lords being then Iudges, We neither could then, nor can yet understand, That Our own coming to the House, was to prevent that shedding of blood, which in all possibility was likely to follow that Order made the night before, for resisting all such Officers, who endeavoured (upon how legall Warrant soever) to arrest any Members of either House (an Order much more unjustifiable by any Rule of Law and Iustice, by which Orders or Acts are to be examined, then any thing Wee have done, or any body by Our Authority) that Our purpose was no other but to acquaint that House with the matter of Our Accusation, to desire their persons might be secured, and without any thought of the least violation of their Priviledges. This is that which Wee did: Examine now their part, and their Progresse since, and then Iudge whose Priviledges have been invaded, and with how good a mind to the Common-wealth they have proceeded. Wee were no sooner gone, but the House adjourned it selfe, with some unusuall expressions of offence, and Wee were speedily informed that some Reports and Scandals were raised against Vs in Our Citty of London; That We had offered violence to Our House of Commons, come thither with force, to murther severall

Members, and uſed threatning Speeches there againſt Our Parliament; and that this was but a Preface to an attempt, We meant to make againſt, and upon the Citty: Whereupon We reſolved the next day to goe to the *Guild-Hall*, and to ſhew the great Confidence We had in the affections of Our ſaid City (which We expected ſhould have begot a proportionable confidence from them in Vs) We went attended with very few of Our own Servants, and then in the preſence of the Lord Major, the Aldermen, and a very great aſſembly of the chief Citizens and others, We made them a full Narration of what We had done the day before, and aſſured them, that We intended no proceedings, but ſuch as were moſt agreeable to the Law of the Land, and the Priviledge of Parliament: This demeanour of Ours Wee thought would have given ſatisfaction to all Our loving Subjects, that if in truth Wee had erred in the form of Our proceedings, yet Our intentions were full of juſtice and regard to the generall Law of the Land, from which We ſhall never, willingly, ſwerve: But inſtead of any application to inform Our judgement, wherein We had erred, and how We were to proceed, both Our Houſes of Parliament, under the title of Committees, adjourned themſelves to the *Guild-Hall*, and afterwards to *Grocers-Hall*; the Perſons accuſed remove themſelves into the City, as to a Sanctuary; and there manage and contrive buſineſſe to their own ends; They cauſe Diſcourſes to be publiſhed, and Infuſions to be made of incredible danger to the Citty and Kingdom by that Our coming to the Houſe; And Alarm was given to the City in the dead

dead time of the night, That We were coming with Horſe and foot thither, and thereupon the whole City put in Arms. And however the envie ſeemed to be caſt upon the Deſignes of the Papiſts, mention was onely made of actions of Our own. Their ſeditious Preachers and Agents, are by them and their ſpeciall and particular directions ſent into the ſeverall Counties to infuſe thoſe Fears and Iealouſies into the mindes of Our good Subjects, with Petitions ready drawn by them for the People to ſigne, which were yet many times by them changed three or four times before the delivery, upon accidents and occurrences of either or both Houſes: And when many of Our poor deceived People of Our ſeverall Counties have come to Our City of *London* with a Petition ſo framed, altered, and ſigned, as aforeſaid, that Petition hath been ſuppreſſed, and a new one ready drawn hath been put into their hands, after their coming to Town, (inſomuch as few of the Company have known what they petitioned for) and hath been by them preſented to one or both Houſes of Parliament, as that of *Bedfordſhire* and *Buckinghamſhire*, witneſſe thoſe Petitions, and, amongſt the reſt, that from *Hertfordſhire*, (which took notice of matters agreed on, or diſſented from the night before the delivery) which was hardly time enough to get ſo many thouſand hands, and to travell to *London* in that errand. The accuſed Members, to ſhew how much they were above Us, and the reach of the Law, march with a Guard of armed men to the place where the Committee ſate, ſit with them, and govern thoſe Councels. Firſt, they procure a Declaration to be ſet forth and printed from the Com-

mittee (without being reported to the House, contrary to all custome and Priviledge of Parliament, and against the Law it self) with very strange expressions of Our carriage, and, upon the matter, requiring all people to assist them. This they caused to be sent into the City to the Common Councell, which by the undue practices of Captain *Venn*, and Maister *Vnkes*, since made Alderman for his good service, (their principall Agents) they had caused to be altered, by putting out the graveſt and moſt substantiall Citizens, and taking in persons of desperate Fortunes and Opinions, who they knew would concur with them in their more desperate Actions; (the same Designe, and the same way pursued to make the City of *London* at their disposall, as had been practised in the House of Commons to work upon the whole Kingdom) and with this Common Councell correspondence is kept for the setting of unusuall Watches, placing of Guards in severall places of the City, as if some desperate attempt and assault were to be made upon the whole City, by Vs, who were known scarce to have a Guard strong enough to preserve Our own House from violence. A Commander is appointed under the Title of Serjeant Major Generall, and, as if all men were now by their new Protestation made Iudges of the Priviledges of Parliament, and the breaches thereof, and absolved from all Rules of Obedience, speciall provision is made, and publike direction is given for drawing downe the Trayned Bands of Our City of *London* to *Westminster*, on a day appointed to guard, and bring in triumph the persons accused of High treason, as such worthy Patriots that the Common-wealth it

selfe

ſelfe could not ſubſiſt but with reference to them, who in their diſcourſes, and by their Meſſages to their Confederates, expreſſed the greateſt ſcorn of, and the moſt treaſonable reproaches againſt Vs that can be imagined. When We underſtood this horrid preparation made againſt Vs, the Power, it was evident theſe perſons had to do hurt, and the Malice We knew they bore againſt Our Perſon, (which We had too great reaſon to fear they intended to ſeize) We reſolved to yeeld, for the preſent, to this Storm: and ſo the day before their coming to *Weſtminſter*, We withdrew Our Perſon, with Our Royall Conſort, and Our Children to Our Houſe at *Hampton Court*, and the rather, leaſt the Courage and Indignation of ſome of Our good Subjects might (how weakly ſoever, yet with the effuſion of blood) oppoſe that great Storm intended Vs; and beleeving that poſſibly by Our removing with all ſuch perſons whoſe preſence was excepted againſt, and diſcharging that ſmall Guard which the Tumults had forced Vs to take for Our ſafety, and which was urged as an Argument of Danger, and Ground of the generall Fears, might at leaſt leſſen their appearance the next day: But theſe Powerfull Perſons would by no means conceal their triumph over Vs, but the next day are guarded from their reſidence in the City with multitudes of armed men, and Ammunition in a hoſtile and warlike manner to *Weſtminſter*. The ſame care and Induſtry was uſed to provoke and incenſe Our Mariners, Maſters of Ships, and other Sea-men, who were ſollicited by the Agents for the accuſed Perſons, and by their ſpeciall direction, to expreſſe their Affection, likewiſe

to

to the Cauſe in hand, And thereupon neer one hundred Lighters, and Long-Boats, were ſet out by water, Laden with Sacres, Murthering-Peeces, and other Ammunition, dreſſed up with Waſt clothes, and Streamers, as ready for fight; And in this Array theſe men by water, and the Souldiers by Land, cryed out as they paſſed by, *That they would thus Protect and Defend thoſe worthy Gentlemen, whom We had accuſed of High Treaſon*, and as they paſſed by Our Windows at *White-Hall*; ſcornfully asked *what was become of Vs, whither Wee were gone*: In this Equipage they came to both Houſes, where it is no wonder, they have been ſince able to govern, having given ſuch Teſtimony of their power, both by Land and Water. Let all the world Iudge, by what Law this Army was raiſed, and whether any Act of Ours, againſt theſe perſons, was as unwarrantable as theſe proceedings.

We bore all this, being ſo much amazed at theſe diſtractions, that We could not eaſily find, what colour the malice of theſe men had found out thus to out-face Us, not yet conceiving We had broke any Priviledge, or that the caſuall breaking of Priviledge could have produced ſuch prodigious diſtempers: But We were no ſooner advertiſed where Our miſtaking was, but, without recrimination, or complaining of the Injuries againſt Our Self, We ſent to both Houſes, on the twelfth and fourteenth of *Ianuary* by Meſſage, That in Our proceeding againſt thoſe Perſons, We had not the leaſt Intention of violating their Priviledges, which We would be willing, to aſſert by any reaſonable way We ſhould be adviſed;

That

That Wee would wave Our former proceedings against them, and when the minds of men should bee composed, would proceed in an unquestionable way; in the mean time desired all jealousies might be laid aside, and application be made to the publike and pressing Affaires, especially to those of *Ireland*, which cryed for the utmost of Our Assistance. But it concerned those Persons by no means to suffer such a composition, if these Fears and Iealousies were not kept up, and inflamed in the People, and the distractions heightned; They knew they should not only be disappointed of the Places, Offices, Honours, and Employments they had premised themselves, but be exposed to the justice of the Law, and just hatred of all good men: Therefore the businesse of both Kingdoms was not considerable to the Interests of the six Members, who would bee thought the Pillars both of Church and State. They had now found a danger neerer hand then *Ireland*, and an Army raised by Vs in one night, at *Kingston* upon *Thames*; and upon some extravagant Information pretended to bee given to a Committee, (though some of their pretended Witnesses publikely, in the House, disavowed any such Testimony) they procured an Order to bee framed, and though, before the publishing of it, they had full and cleer evidence to the contrary, by Persons come immediatly from the place, and testifying it to bee most quiet and peaceable, they yet had power to procure that Order to be published on the thirteenth of *January*, (the next day after they had received so gracious a Message from Vs) declaring, That the Lord *Digby* and Colonell *Lunsford* (the former of which was in

the Town only with a Coach and six Horses, the other onely attended by his Servant, and hath been since earnestly pressed, by the Serjeant of the House of Commons (in whose custody he was) to accuse the Lord *Digby*, with promises, that thereby himselfe should be discharged) had gathered Troops of Horse, and appeared in a warlike manner at *Kingston* upon *Thames* (being within a Mile of Our Court) to the terror and affrightment of Our good Subjects, and to the disturbance of the publike weale of the Kingdom; and therefore it was ordered, That the Sheriff and Justices of the Peace should, with the assistance of the Train-Bands, suppresse such Assemblies, &c. And this way they found out to draw that County to affront Vs, and sent multitudes of mean people, under pretence of petitioning Vs, to shew Vs how unsecure Our Residence was like to be there too, and so in a short time compelled Vs, Our Royall Consort, and Our Children, to remove to Our Castle at *Windsore*. They proceed then by a close Committee (a thing scarce heard of till this Parliament, and of dangerous consequence to the fame and reputation of all men) to examine such mean, unknown Persons, as they had, by threats and promises, solicited to that purpose, concerning the circumstances of Our coming to the House, exhibiting bold and malicious Interogatories and Questions concerning Our Self; and upon such wild Informations of desperate Persons, contrary to the known truth, and concealing other Examinations which they had taken, and by which the contrary, to what they would have the People beleeve, would have appeared, particularly, that very

full

full Examination of Captain *Aſhley*, wherein Our publike and peremptory Commands againſt all manner of violence (though provoked) are ſufficiently manifeſted. They procured an infamous Declaration to be publiſhed by the Houſe of Commons (for the Houſe of Peers could not bee yet prevailed with to joyn in thoſe extravagances) on the ſeventeenth of *January*, mentioning Our coming to the Houſe, and ſome rude expreſſions of ſome perſons (who if there were any ſuch perſons there, We are moſt confident they were not of Our Train) and would infer from ſome mens calling for the word at Our coming out of the Houſe (which is a form uſed in Our Court, that thoſe of Our Train who are before, may know when and whether they are to go) that We had a purpoſe to have fallen upon the Houſe of Commons, and to have cut all their Throats; and doe therefore declare, That *Our coming to the Houſe, was a traiterous Deſigne againſt the King and Parliament; That Our Proclamation iſſued out for the Apprehenſion of them, was falſe, ſcandalous, and illegall; That it was lawfull for all men to harbour them, and that whoſoever did ſo, ſhould bee under the Protection and Priviledge of Parliament*; with many other expreſſions of, and aſperſions upon Vs, which they hoped would render Vs odious to Our good Subjects; and force Vs, for Our ſafety, to ſubmit to ſuch unreaſonable Propoſitions, which amongſt themſelves they had provided to be offered to Vs, or provoke Vs to ſuch Actions as might give them ſome advantage. To keep the people in a continuall Alarm and apprehenſion of Danger, few daies paſſed without ſome

pretended Discovery by Sir *Walter Earle*, or other quick-sighted men, of some Treason or Plot against the Parliament, the City, or the Kingdom; and upon every light and impossible Information, many of Our Subjects sent for out of severall Counties, who after chargeable attendance, were dismissed without any reparation or reprehension. One day the Tower of *London* is in Danger to be taken, and Information given, That great Mukitudes, at least a hundred, had that day resorted, to visit a Priest, then a Prisoner there, by Order of the Lords, and that at the time of the Information, above fifty or threescore were then there, and a Warder dispatched, of purpose to give that notice: upon enquiry, but foure Persons, were then found to be there, and but eight all that day, who had visited that Priest. Another day a Taylor in a Ditch, in the open fields over-hears two Passengers to plot the death of Mr *Pym*, and of many other Members of both Houses: Then Libellous Letters found in the streets, without names (probably contrived by themselves) and by their Power published, Printed, and entred in their Iournalls; And Intimations given of the Papists, training under ground, and of notable provision of Ammunition in Houses, where, upon examination, a single Sword, and a Bow, and Arrowes are found: a Designe of the Inhabitants of *Covent-Garden*, to murther the Citty of *London*: Newes from *France*, *Italy*, *Spain*, and *Denmark*, of Arms ready to come for *England*, with infinite such ridiculous Discourses, which are not only suffered and directed to be Printed, but such countenance, and credit given to them, That thereupon

Guards

Guards must bee doubled, Correspondencies, and Letters interrupted and broken open, even of and to Forraign Ministers of State, and Embassadors, to the Scandall of the Nation, and against the Laws of Society, and Civill Conversation: A Committee appointed for Information, where Liberty hath been taken, without any Accusation, or Complaint extant, to examine the discourses passed at Meals, and Entertainments, what words such a man spoke, and such other monstrous things, as in a short time, will render life it self unpleasant, and make every Room, and every Table, a bait to betray men, and to bring them to ruine, and Destruction: Insomuch as Persons have been sent, and imployed by Members of that Committee, on purpose, to the Tables of Persons of Honour, and Quality to enquire, observe, and inform what Language and Freedom was there used; whilest these Worthy accused Members, took the Liberty to themselves in all their private meetings, and by their Letters, to Deprave and Slander Our Person, to contrive the alteration of the Government of the Church and State, to treat with Forraign Power, to assist them as soon as their Designes should bee ripe, to labour by promises, and threats, to bring the severall Members of either House to their opinion, and to raise Scandalls upon, and to plot Danger, and ruine for those, who were of another opinion: And having now by these Acts disquieted, and distracted the People abroad, and made them fit to receive any impressions from them, they proceed to work upon the Members of both Houses, with infinite Industry, and Applications, That they

might be able to get the reputation of Consent from them, to encourage and set the People a worke, if We refused to Consent with them. They had removed as many Members from them, of a contrary opinion, as they could, and had used all means to get men, who would be disposed by them, into their Rooms. If they found any such Lord, who had not a name in their List of the good Lords, were like to have any influence upon a Place, where an Election was to bee, presently an Order was conceived, and published, That no Letters from any Noble-man, ought to bee written in such Cases, and if written, to be neglected, but would, by no means, consent, that this Order should conclude those of the House of Commons, lest Maister *Pym*, or any of those blessed Members, might not write in the behalf of the Common-wealth, for a worthy Gentleman. If any Elections were questioned, whereby they were like to loose a man at their disposall, such businesses, and questions, were of too private a nature, to interrupt their proceedings; so neither the Election of *New-castle*, *Warwick*, *Windsor*, and very many other places, for whom Persons serve without, and against the Consent of the Burroughes, for whom they have got themselves returned or admitted, can be heard or considered. If the Election of any such Persons hath been heard at the Committee, and they Voted out of the House, as unduly chosen or returned, They will, by no means, suffer such a Report to be made, lest a good Member should be lost; as in the Case of Maister *Nichols* (Maister *Pym's* Nephew) and others. Are they concerned in the contrary, and is any man returned and admit-

admitted, whom they would bee rid of, and againſt whom the leaſt pretence is made: ſtreight a day is appointed, no buſineſſe ſo great, as fit to be a Cauſe to keepe a worthy Member from the Service of his Countrey: This is the Caſe of *Andover*, and other places. They rid themſelves of thoſe (how juſtly ſoever elected) whoſe opinions are not ſuteable, nor their diſpoſitions weake and guilty enough to be wrought upon. Their next Conqueſt muſt be of thoſe, whom they could, under any generall Vote, conclude to be obnoxious to the Iuſtice (and ſo to be within the mercy) of the Parliament. To this purpoſe their terrible Votes (which they keep as Rods over them, having never proceeded againſt any) againſt all thoſe Lords, who had concurred in ſuch an Order at the Councell Table, or ſuch a cenſure in the Star-Chamber; againſt all Lords Lievtenants, and their Deputies, who had raiſed Coat and Conduct money; againſt all Sheriffs, who had levyed Ship-mony; againſt all Lords and others, who had been concerned in, or received profit by any Monopoly, or illegall Patent; In a word, againſt all ſuch who had medled in any thing, which their Interpretation would call grievous to the Subject, brought all Perſons of either Houſe, who had guilt enough to doubt themſelves, or want of Spirit enough to fear them, either to be abſent, or ſilent, or to comply with them: And if any man had the Courage to conſider the ſingle buſineſſe juſtly, and by it ſelf, they were ſtreight making an Inquiſition into his whole life, and preparing ſomething againſt him, for matters of which their favourites were equally guilty, and declared publikely,

That

M. Pym. *That what disservice soever any man had done formerly, if his present Actions were such as brought benefit to the Common-wealth, hee ought not to bee questioned for what was past, but cherished and protected.* They had severall Baits, to catch and betray other men; those who had been from the beginning deceived by them, and complyed with them in their passion, and been subtily involved in some of their private counsels, they perswaded, That they were so far in, there was no retyring, That We would never forget the dis-service they had done Vs; and therefore that there was no way to safety for themselves, but by weakning Vs, and putting themselves into such a condition, as it should not bee in Our Power to suppresse them. To those who had publike thoughts about them, and desired the establishment of right equally between Vs and Our Subjects, and thought that right and favour they had obtained from Vs this Parliament; could never be enjoyed by them with that lustre and security, if the power from which they received it were oppressed, or rendred of lesse veneration, They seemed abundantly satisfied with those Acts We had passed, that they had no further aim then to enjoy those; but that they had upon Our unwilling passing those Acts (which all the world knows to be an untruth most maliciously framed) great reason to feare, We meant not to observe them, when in truth We had, by the Bill, for the Triennial Parliament, put Our Self, and Our Posterity (which Wee were willing to do) out of any possibility of destroying, or not observing those good Laws: To those who were desirous to give that satisfaction to weake Consciences,

ces, that they might be eased of unnecessary Ceremonies, yet were Scandalized at the prophane and odious Licence, which the Rabble of Brownists, Anabaptists, and other Sectaries, tooke to themselves, of despising, and reviling the Booke of Common-Prayer, of suffering Mechanick, Ignorant fellowsto undertake publikely, even in Churches, to preach, and expound the Scripture; They seemed no lesse to be disquieted at that disorder, but alledge that all Reconciliation and Vnion was to be embraced, and pursued against the Common Enemy the Papist (from whom the Danger was principally to be feared:) And when a perfect Victory was obtained against them, They should easily bring the other poore, harmlesse Creatures to Conformity. Those, who out of Lazinesse, and Vulgar-spiritednesse, were apt to comply with that part which was at last likely to prevaile, they informed, and assured confidently, That they had those about Vs, who would at last perswade Vs to yeeld to all they demanded; and that all Places, and Preferments should attend their directions, and be disposed by them, and that all such who opposed them, should be inevitably destroyed: Those, whom neither their Skill, nor Importunity, their Threats, nor their Promises could prevaile with, to comply in their bad wayes, they proscribed as a Malignant Party, and having cast all the aspersions upon them Folly and Madnesse could devise, exposed them to be torn in peeces by the People. And having thus disposed themselves, and perplexed the people, they proceed to laying that Foundation of greatnesse and Power to themselves, they had from the beginning contrived,

and as if all the Pillars, upon which the Peace and Happineſſe, and being of this Kingdom was founded, were now ſhaken by the attempt againſt thoſe ſix Innocent perſons, and that all Our Power were therefore to be transferred into other hands, They cauſe the matter of the Bill formerly exhibited in *October* before, to be again reviewed; and now all the Forts, and Caſtles of the Kingdoms, and the whole *Militia*, muſt be put into ſuch hands as they might confide in. A Garriſon muſt be put into Our Town of *Hull*, and Sir *John Hotham* appointed Governour of it, to whom the Major of YORK is ordered to diſpoſe 2000 pound out of the Pol-money, which was to pay the Arrears due to that county for Billet, and the great debt to Our Subjects of *Scotland*. And when the Major, and principall Aldermen of *Hull*, refuſe to receive that Garriſon, and urge the Petition of Right, That they may not be forced to Billet thoſe Souldiers, they are ſent for to the Houſe of Commons, and there kept in a tedious and chargeable Attendance, till the Garriſon be taken in, being ſent for to no other purpoſe. Our own Magazine muſt be managed, and diſpoſed by their diſcretion, The Tower of *London* muſt be put into their hands, and a Perſon againſt whom Malice it ſelf, could not finde the leaſt accuſation, muſt be removed, for no other reaſon, but becauſe We had a good opinion of him.

Sir *John Byron.*

They who are the ſtricteſt in their Cenſure of Vs, and of Our Eaſineſſe will finde, upon this State of things, that We had enough to do, and that there was much difficulty to reſolve. We will never deny that Our extream tenderneſſe of the Peace of the Kingdom,

dom, and Our great grief of heart to see Our good Subjects misled in their duty and affection, begot more of Our compassion and pitty then of Our Anger and Indignation, so that We were more awake to the sense of the Calamity and misery which in all probability was like to befall them, then of Our owne Honour and Dignity; and therefore, without expressing the least resentment of all the scorns and injuries put upon Vs, and to shew how much Our Soule was possessed with the care of Our People, We sent a Message to both Our Houses of Parliament from *Windsore*, on the twentieth of *January*, desiring them, for the composing the miserable distractions of the Kingdom, to enter speedily into a serious consideration of all particulars, as well those which might concern their Priviledges, their Liberty, and their Property, the securing the true Religion, and the setling of Ceremonies, as those of Our just Regall Authority and Revenue, that so both We and they might make a cleer Judgement of them, and We might make it appear how far We were from giving grounds for those fears and Iealousies, by exceeding the examples of the most indulgent Princes in Our Acts of Grace and favour to Our People. No body will blame Vs, if We expected at least such an Answer as might bring Vs and Our Houses of Parliament to an issue, that We might temperately debate what was to be done: But they who well knew the nature of their own demands, and what they meant to insist upon, would by no means, that things should be brought into so little room, or discover the particulars of their desires, till they saw what strength they were like to have to second those

desires; therefore a new adjournment is made to *Grocers-Hall* to consult of Evils and remedies; severall Petitions framed and contrived by these persons themselves, are sent into the severall Counties, and multitudes of people resort every day to both Houses with Petitions, avowing the Fears and Iealousies these men had infused into them, and desiring to have the Kingdom put into a posture of defence; and declaring their stout Resolutions to maintain the Priviledge of Parliament. In this Triumph they vouchsafe to petition Vs to proceed against the Members accused, or else that they might be publikely quit: We were resolved to give them no more advantage upon breach of Priviledge, and therefore desired to be informed which way We were to proceed, and whether We might prefer Indictments against them at the Common-Law; We were answered that no proceeding should be against them without consent of that House of which they were Members, and therefore We were desired within three dayes to inform both Houses what proof We had against them, or else they should be cleered; and they had before caused their false, scandalous Declaration of the fourteenth of *January*, of Our coming to the House, to be new printed, together with the Protestation; and to be sent over the whole Kingdom by the Knights and Burgesses, as if by the one they were obliged to defend the other. In this Case, no man will beleeve We had reason to bring in Our proofs against these men, and to publish Our Evidence, when We were told it was in the power of the major-part to chuse whether they should be tryed or no: And We might easily see, and all the world

world will judge by the proceedings then, and their publike expreſſions ſince, whether, if We had proved a Conſpiracy amongſt them to have taken away Our life, they would not have found ſome diſtinction between Our Perſon, and Our Office, which ſhould have preſerved theſe Perſons from the hand and courſe of Iuſtice. And to what other end that Doctrine ſhould be publiſhed with ſo much paſſion, *That in caſe of Treaſon We might not proceed againſt any Member but by Conſent of the Houſe:* (ſo contrary to Cuſtom, Law, and Reaſon) but to let all men know it ſhould not be in Our Power to queſtion them for any thing they ſhould do againſt Vs, let the Law be never ſo cleer in the point. Upon all theſe Conſiderations, rather then to waſte time in the diſpute, when they were reſolved to be their own Iudges too, We ſent them word by Our Anſwer to their Petition of the ſecond of *February*, That We found We had good cauſe to deſert any proſecution of thoſe Members, and further offered to grant ſuch a free and a generall Pardon to all Our loving Subjects, as ſhould be thought fit by the advice of both Houſes, which we thought to be the beſt way to compoſe all fears and Iealouſies of what kinde ſoever. But the Buſineſſe of theſe men could not be done that way; a generall Pardon would never have ſetled the *Militia*, and diſpoſſeſſed Vs of thoſe Rights, and that Power, without which they could not compaſſe their Deſignes: They now reſort to their old refuge, the Common People of the City and Suburbs, and whatever they deſired, theſe men muſt ask, for the ſatisfaction of the Feares and Iealouſies of the City. The City had been deſired to lend a hundred thouſand

pounds for the relief of *Ireland*, and their Answer is drawn up to their hands, of their inability to lend, and such Reasons given as might advance what had been upon generall Discourses neglected. The ten thousand men proffered by the *Scots* for *Ireland* were not accepted. A Bill having been offered Vs for Pressing, and in it a Clause (not necessary to the present, and therefore purposely, as We conceive, put in, in hope We would, upon that, refuse it) declaring Vs to have no Power to presse, (a Power constantly practised by Our Ancestors, and even in the blessed times of Queen *Elizabeth*) and Our pause upon it was urged, as a Design to lose that Kingdom, although We had offered to raise ten thousand Volontiers for that purpose, if they would pay them. The not securing the Cinque ports, though the Custody of them was in a Noble Person, against whom the least exception could not be made; and the not setling the Kingdom in a Posture of Defence; the not removing Sir *John Byron* from being Lievtenant of the Tower, whereby through distrust, they were forced to forbeare the bringing in of *Bullion* to the Mint, (when 'tis notoriously known, there was more Bullion brought in to Our Mint in the time that Gentleman was Lievtenant, then in the same quantity of time, in any mans Remembrance.) The Votes of the Bishops, and the Popish Lords, in the House of Peers, and all other things, which were then in Designe, and had in vain been attempted by them, by the refusall of the House of Peers, severall times to joyn with them, were now urged as principall reasons, by this Petition of *London*, why they could not

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lend a hundred thouſand pounds to *Ireland*, and were preſſed by ſeverall other Petitions contrived by them, and preſented to both Houſes, or to the Houſe of Commons: And theſe Petitions are carryed up to the Lords by Mr *Pym*, who takes upon him to reproach them for not concurring with the Houſe of Commons, and impudently layes that Scandall upon Vs, That We had ſuffered many to paſſe by Our own immediate Warrant, who were ſince Commanders in the head of the Rebels; A falſe and abominable Scandall, raiſed by his own Malice, to draw Our good Subjects againſt Vs, without the leaſt colour or ſhadow of truth, as appears by thoſe Anſwers they have publiſhed to Our exception in that point, wherein there is not the leaſt Evidence of any ſuch Warrant granted by Vs: Though Maſter *Pym* be ſo great a Perſon, that We can have no Reparation againſt him for that Calumny; but had credit enough with the Houſe of Commons, to perſwade them to charge themſelves unjuſtly to excuſe him, and to take upon them, That he had ſaid nothing in that Speech, but by their directions. All this had not that quick operation with the Lords, with whom (though they had committed Twelve Biſhops for Treaſon, a thing themſelves bluſh at, and the Popiſh Lords had abſented themſelves) they could not prevaile, to joyn in matters ſo unreaſonable in themſelves, and diſhonourable to Vs, therefore the Houſe of Commons by themſelves Petition Vs, thanke Vs for Our Meſſage of the twentieth of *Ianuary*, though they have ſince declared it to be a breach of Priviledge, reſolving to take it into ſerious and ſpeedy Conſideration,

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onely desire for their Security, That We will put the Tower of *London*, and all the Forts of the Kingdom, and the whole *Militia* into such hands as should be recommended unto Vs by them, (for the House of *Peers* had refused to joyn with them, and so were upon the matter petitioned against, and left out in the power of recommendation.) Sure this was the strangest *Petition*, that, till that time, had ever been presented by the House of Commons to their King; yet We returned a gracious Answer, That, if any particular should be presented to Vs, whereby it might appear, that the Lievtenant of the Tower, was unfit for the trust We had committed to him, We would immediately remove him; otherwise We were obliged in Honour and Iustice, not to put such a disgrace upon him. For the Forts and Castles, That We were resolved, they should be alwayes in such hands, and onely in such, as Our Parliament should have cause to confide in; That We would have the nomination of them Our Selfe, but that they should be alwayes left (if any thing were objected against them) to the Wisdom and Iustice of the Parliament: For the *Militia*, That when some particular course should be proposed to Vs for the ordering of it, We should return an Answer agreeable to Honour and Iustice, as appears more at large in Our Answer of the 28. of *February* to that Petition. This gave them no better satisfaction, then the former; but finding that without the consent of the House of Peers (of whom much the major part, though the Popish Lords, and the Bishops were absent, dissented from them) and against Our consent, they were not like to prevaile over Our People,

People, they resolve of another Attempt upon them; Their old friends, the Multitude, must be again brought down by the great Conductor Captain *Venn* (who is notoriously known, and proof thereof offered to be produced by Maister *Kirton* to the House of Commons, to have severall times sent to, and solicited People to come downe out of the City, with Swords and Pistols, when he hath told them, or sent them word by his wife, that the worser Party was like to have the better of the good Party, and for all which publike offer, neither was Master *Venn* then suffered to Answer to this Charge, nor Master *Kirton* allowed any time (though many dayes were set) to bring in the particulars and witnesses.) Many Persons are importuned to set their hands against the Lievtenant of the Tower, That they durst not bring in any Bullion to the Mint, for want of Confidence, when they never brought in any in their lives; and being asked how the could set their hands to such a Certificat, when it was known that never greater quantity was brought in then at that time; Answered, *That they were directed by Parliament men to do so, or else they could not compasse their Ends*: And having gotten Multitudes of People of severall Counties, (or such as pretended to be so) to deliver Petitions to both Houses, and to desire leave, that they might protest against those Lords who would not agree to the Votes of the House of Commons, as the Petitions of *Surrey*, and *Hertfordshire* do, and perswaded others in the name of many thousands of poor People, in and about the City of *London*, to Petition against a Malignant Faction, which made

abortive all those good Intentions, which tended to the Peace, and Tranquillity of the Kingdom, and to desire, *That those Noble Worthies of the House of Peers, who concurred with them in their happy Votes, might be earnestly desired to joyn with the House of Commons, and to sit and Vote as one entire body*, Professing, That unlesse some speedy remedy were taken for the removall of all such Obstructions as hindered the happy Progresse of their great endeavours, *the Petitioners should not rest in quietnesse, but should be enforced to lay hold on the next remedy which was at hand, to remove the Disturbers of their Peace*, and (want and necessity breaking the bounds of modesty) *not to leave any means unassayed for their relief*; Adding, That the cry of the poore and needy was, *That such Persons, who were the Obstacles of their Peace, and Hinderers of the happy proceedings of this Parliament, might be forthwith publikely declared, whose removall, they conceived, would put a period to those Distractions*, after it had been said in the House of Peers, That *whoever would not consent to the Proposition made by the House of Commons concerning the Forts, Castles, and the* Militia, (when it was rejected by a Major part twice) *was an Enemy to the Common-wealth.* This Petition was brought up to the House of Lords, by the House of Commons, at a Conference; and after the same day Maister *Hollis* (a Person formerly accused by Vs of High Treason, and a most malicious Promoter, and Contriver of those Petitions and Tumults) presſed the Lords, at the Barre, to joyn with the House of Commons in their desire about the *Militia*, and fur-

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ther (with many other expreſſions of like nature) deſired, in words to this effect, *That (if that deſire of the Houſe of Commons were not aſſented to) thoſe Lords who were willing to concur, would finde ſome means to make themſelves known, that it might be known who were againſt them, and they might make it knowne to them who ſent them*: Upon which Petition ſo ſtrangely framed, countenanced and ſeconded, ſo great a number of the Lords departed, that that Vote paſſed (which they had ſo often before denyed) in Order to the Ordinance, concerning the *Militia*, and ſince that time, they have been able to carry any thing; and, upon the matter, the Reſolution of the Houſe of Commons hath been wholly guided by thoſe Perſons, who had given ſo plain evidence, That they had the multitude at their Command, and hath wholly guided that of the Houſe of Peers, who with little debate or diſpute, have, for the moſt part, ſubmitted to whatſoeuer hath been brought to them. Shortly after they paſſed their Ordinance, with ſuch a Preamble as highly concerned Vs, in Honour and Iuſtice to proteſt againſt, and wholly excluding Vs (in whom that whole power abſolutely was and is) from any power or authority in the *Militia*, the Arms and Strength of the Kingdom, and that for as long as they pleaſed. And as if the matter were not worth the conſidering, or that there ought to be no other meaſure to guide Vs in point of Iudgement or Vnderſtanding, but their Votes, it was ill taken that We did not immediately return Our Anſwer, but took ſome time to conſider it; and We were againe, with great paſſion and impatience, preſſed to give Our Anſwer they be-

ing pleased to tell Vs, *They could not but interpret the delay to be, in a degree, a denial*; and in the mean time, to give Vs an instance how modestly they were like to use such Power when We should commit it to them, they presumed of themselves (knowing We had appointed Our Sonne the Prince to meet Vs at *Greenwich* in Our returne from *Dover*) to inhibit his meeting Vs there, and to endeavour to get him into their custody. All these things considered, and the Insolence and Iustice of the Ordinance, We might very well have rejected that Proposition, with a flat denyall, and just indignation; But We easilie perceived, That Our good People were misled by the cunning and malice of those *Boutefeus*, and thought it alwayes complyance worthy a Prince to take all possible pains to undeceive such who are led into mistakings; and therefore We returned to their Proposition for the Ordinance, a gratious Answer, and Animadversion; made it evident to them, That the preamble was in it selfe untrue and against Our Honour to consent to, and expressed Our cleer intention in Our going to Our House of Commons: We allowed all those persons recommended to Vs (except onely in Corporations, to whom a Right was formerly granted by Charter, not consistent with this Ordinance) and offered to grant such Commissions to them as had very long and happily been used in this Kingdom, and which We had this very Parliament granted to two Lords, at the instance and intreaty of both Houses. If that Power should not be thought enough, We offerred to grant any should be first vested in us, and so We be enabled to grant; but desired that the whole might

might be digested into an Act of Parliament, whereby Our good Subjects might know, what they were to do, and what they were to suffer, that there might be the least latitude for the exercising of any Arbitrary Power over them; which Answer We desire all Our Subjects to read and consider, whether We did not thereby grant all which themselves had first desired; and whether there was cause to vote such who advised that answer to be enemies to the State, and mischievous Projectors against the defence of the Kingdom. But as if all the Acts passed by Us (amongst which that for the taking away the Votes of Bishops out of the House of Peers was the last) were of no other value, but as instances that We would never deny them any thing, they immediately, in great fury, addresse themselves to Vs, with a new *humble Petition*, (as they called it, but was indeed a Threatning) and told Vs plainly, That if We would not then (in that instant) give Our Royall assent to their Ordinance, they were resolved to dispose of the *Militia*, by the authority of both Houses, without Vs; advised Vs to stay about *London*, to put away evill Councellors, and to let Our Sonne, the Prince, be and continue at S. *Iames*, or some other of our houses neere about *London*, that the Iealousies and Feares of Our people might be prevented. We must appeale to all the world, whether, considering what had been done in publike, and said in private, We had no cause of Iealousie; and whether, having such evidence of the Malice, Guilt, and Power of those accused Members, who had designed to have taken the Prince, Our Son, from Vs by force, it was

not high time to remove a little further from that Torrent which might have over-whelmed Vs, and made them as well, and by the same Rule, Masters of Our Person as of Our *Militia*. This carried Vs first from *Theobalds* to *New-market*: And whosoever reads the Declaration sent Vs thither, the strange language given Vs, and scandals laid upon Vs in that Declaration, will not wonder that We made all the haste We could from thence to *York*. What hath hapned since Our comming hither, both in Words and Actions, is too notorious to all the parts of Christendom, who with wonder and delight are amazed to see the Wisdom, Courage, Affection, and Loyalty of the English Nation appear so far shrunk and confounded by the Malice, Cunning, and Industry of Persons contemptible in Number, inconsiderable in Fortune and Reputation, united onely by Guilt and Conspiracy against Us. A Licence even to Treason is admitted, (that is, not punished) in Pulpits, and persons ignorant in Learning and Understanding, turbulent and seditious in disposition, scandalous in life, and unconformable in opinion to the Laws of the Land, are by these men, their recommendation and authority, imposed upon Parishes, to infect and poyson the minds of Our People. Our Towns, Our Goods, Our Money, are taken from Us; and to make the scorn compleat, care is taken to perswade Vs that We are not injured, but that all is done for Our good. Opinions and Resolutions are imposed upon Vs by Votes and Declarations, That We intended to levie War, and then Arms taken up to destroy Vs; Rebellions and Treasons Contrived, Fomented, and Acted

against

againſt Vs, and then Reproaches caſt on Vs, and War raiſed againſt Vs, becauſe We are diſpleaſed. We ſend Our Command to Our Keeper of Our Great Seale of *England*, to Adjourn the Tearm from *London* to *York*, a thing as much in Our Power, as in what room of Our Houſe We will lodge, or eat. This is ſtraight Voted to be illegall, and Our Keeper of Our Own Seal, peremptorily forbid to do his duty, to Seal a writ, or Proclamation to that purpoſe; And when, in Obedience to Our expreſſe Command, he comes to wait on Vs, he is purſued with a Warrant to all Majors, Iuſtices of the Peace, Sheriffs, and other Officers, to apprehend him. A Committee is ſent down into the Countreys neer Vs to execute their pretended Ordinance, who compell Our Subjects to take Arms againſt Vs, and threaten and impriſon ſuch as refuſe, without the leaſt colour of Law, whileſt ſuch who execute Our legall Commiſſion of Array, are ſent for as Delinquents, and declared to be enemies to the Kingdom. Our own Moneys ſeized upon at *London*, and no ſupply ſuffered to be ſent Vs, all perſons are forbid to come to Vs, and charge given to all men neere the Northren Road, to ſtop all Men and Horſes, who are for Our ſervice, comming to *York*, There being (as Maſter *Hollis* ſayes in his Speech, of which he hath the ſole Printing, and hath granted that Monopoly to one *Vnderhill*) a mark ſet upon that place, and an opinion declared concerning thoſe who ſhall reſort thither; Our High-wayes are ſhut up, and Our good Subjects are hindred in their journeys, and their goods ſeized and detained from them, becauſe they have occaſions

caſions to uſe them in the *North*: Our own Houſe-hold Servants refuſe to attend Vs upon Our Summons; and then the putting them from their places is voted an injury to the Parliament, and whoſoever ſhall accept of thoſe places, to offer an affront to the Parliament, and render themſelves Vnworthy of any place of Honour or truſt in the Common-wealth. Sir *John Hotham* is commended and protected for keeping Vs out of Our Town of *Hull* by Force and Arms, And Our raiſing a Guard for Our defence, is voted levying War againſt Our Parliament, whileſt he murthers Our Subjects, takes them Priſoners, burns their Houſes, drowns their Land, and robs all men he can lay hold of, and commits all the inſolent Acts of Hoſtility againſt Vs, and Our Subjects, which the moſt equall and declared Enemies practiſe in any Countrey: And when, after all theſe Outrages, Our miſerable Subjects throw themſelves at Our feet, crying for, and challenging Our Protection, We muſt not perform that duty towards them, nor preſume to ſay Sir *John Hotham* is a Traytor, becauſe he hath Priviledge of Parliament. Our Royall Navy, Our owne Ships are taken from Vs, the Earle of *Warwick* made Our Admirall in deſpight and ſcorne of Vs, who chaſes Our Subjects, and makes War upon Vs, under the Authority of another pretended Ordinance, and his Letter publiſhed by the direction of the Houſe of Peers, to ſhew how eaſie it was to make an Election, rather to deſpiſe Vs, and the knowne unqueſtionable Law of the Land, then to neglect an Order of both Houſes, in a matter they have no more juſt power to meddle

meddle in, then they have to sell Our Houses, Parks, and Crown-Land, and they may as lawfully send those Ships to the Indies, and ordain that Wee shall never have more, as keep them in the Downs against Our will, and under a Command We do protest against to all the world. We are defamed and publikely reproached for want of zeale against the Rebells in *Ireland*, and when Wee offer to venture Our own Person, and Our Crown-Land, for the relief of Our miserable Subjects there, such a Journey is Voted to be against the Law, to be an incouragement to the Rebels, that whosoever shall assist Vs in it shall be an Enemy to the Common-wealth, and that the Sheriffs of Counties shall raise power to suppresse any Levies We shall make to that purpose; And after all this (when it hath been publikely said by Maister *Martin, That Our Office is forfeitable, and that the happinesse of this Kingdom, doth not depend upon Vs, or any of the Regall Branches of that Stock*; and by Sir *Henry Ludlow, That We are not worthy to be King of England*, and been declared that *We have no negative voice*, which puts Our Crown, the Law of the Land, the Liberty and Property of the Subjects absolutely into their hands) We are told by these devout Champions for Anarchie and Confusion, *That We are fairly dealt with, that We are not deposed; that if they did that, there would be neither want of modesty or duty in them*; They publish false scandalous Declarations to corrupt Our good Subjects in their Loyalty and Affection to Vs, injoyn them to be read, and disperse them with all Care and Industry; and send for all Ministers, who, according to Our Command, publish Our Answers

to undeceive Our People, as Delinquents, notwithstanding We have not prohibited any to read theirs. They commit the Lord Major of *London*, (and other Majors) for publishing Our Proclamations according to Our Writ and his Oath, and straightly charge all Our Ministers of Justice not to obey Vs. They raise an Army against Us, and choose the Earle of *Essex*, for their Generall, and grant him a power over Vs, the Law, and all Our People, that hee may kill and destroy whom he thinks fit, and imposes an Oath upon Our Subjects, to execute all the Commands of both Houses; They waste and consume the money given by Act of Parliament, for the discharge of the great debt of the Kingdom, and for the relief of the bleeding Condition of *Ireland*; Imploy the Money brought in by the Adventurers, and those men who are levyed by Our Authority and Commission, for the preservation of Our miserable Subjects there, to serve them in a War against Vs; whereby all men may see what reason We had, not to consent to a Warrant Dormant, under pretence of Levies for *Ireland*, which might have furnished them with men to fight against Vs, as the same pretence hath done with all the Arms We had in Our Magazines; They commit such of Our Subjects to Prison, whom they are pleased to suspect, (as the Earle of *Portland*,) and for no other reason but that they believe them loyall to Vs; Censure and degrade nine Lords at a clap, for obeying Our Summons and coming to Vs, when scarce that number concurred in the Judgement; and declared two others Enemies to the Common-wealth, taking their Votes from them, without so much

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as summoning them to answer any charge brought against them; They presume to take Tonnage, and Poundage, by a pretended Ordinance, without Our Consent; though they have so often pressed it against Vs, that We tooke it without theirs, and so now dispence with a Premunire made this Parliament, as they have formerly done with Treason. Lastly, to shew into what hands, they intend the Government of this Kingdom shall be put, they have reduced the businesse of the whole Kingdom, from both Houses of Parliament, into the hands of a few desperate persons, who have the power committed to them to Act this Tragedy, without acquainting the Houses, and so have gotten the Authority of King, and both Houses of Parliament to destroy all three; Make Orders to break up Houses, take away Plate, and Money, because 'tis possible the Owners wish it with Vs at *York*; send Troops of Horse, to make War upon Vs; in what Counties they please, and commit such unheard of Acts of oppression and injustice, as no Story can paralell, where the last form of Government hath been left, That all Our good Subjects may see, by what Rules they shall live, and what Right they are like to enjoy, when these men have gotten the Sway, who in the infancy of their power, and when there is yet left some memory of, and reverence to the Laws, under which their Fathers lived so happily, dare leap over all those known, and confessed Principles of Government, and Obedience, and exercise a Tyranny both over Prince, and People more insupportable then confusion it selfe. And for all this impudent Injustice (odious to God and Man) what is objected

against Vs? That We will not be advised by Our Parliament: In what? what one Proposition, that is evidently for the ease of Our Subjects, have We denied? That We have granted many is confessed. We will not consent, That the Ordinance of the *Militia* shall be executed and obeyed, that is, We will not allow that both Houses of Parliament shall make Laws, and impose upon the Property and Liberty of Our Subjects, without Our consent, (which if We should yeeld to upon the same pretences of necessity, a word fatall to this Kingdom and the publike good, the House of Commons might as well, and would quickly come to make Laws without the House of Peers, and the Common People without either) nor are willing that those men who have discovered all malice to Our Person, and disesteem and irreverence of Our Office, shall be legally qualified to take up Arms against Vs, when they shall be thereunto provoked by their malice or ambition. There can be no new thing said in this argument; We must refer Our good Subjects to Our severall Answers, Declarations, and Proclamations in that point; only it will be worth their considering, that this extraordinary, unheard of, extravagant Power was assumed in a case of peremptory necessity, for the prevention of imminent danger in the beginning of *March* (how long it was in designe before is understood by Sir *Arthur Haslerig* his Bill long preceding) whether any such danger hath been since discovered, and whether unspeakable calamities have not already, and are not like to ensue from that Fountain, We wish it were not too apparent; And if those Fears and Iealousies which seem to make that Ordinance necessary,

neceſſary, were indeed reall and honeſt, that in truth nothing were deſired but putting the Kingdom into a poſture, that is, That all Our Loving Subjects might be provided with Arms, and dexterous in the uſing them, if any Invaſion or Rebellion ſhould be, is not all this Care taken, and all this Security provided for by the Commiſſion of Array? What honeſt end can that Ordinance have which is not obtained by the execution of, and obedience to that Commiſſion? But 'tis true, the power is not in thoſe hands, nor like to be imployed to thoſe uſes 'tis now intended. Who hath not heard theſe men ſay, *That the alteration they intend, and is neceſſary both in Church and State, muſt be made by blood?* Are not the Principles by which they live deſtructive to all Laws and Compacts? Is not every thing neceſſary they think ſo, and every thing lawfull that is in order to that neceſſity? Sure, if Our good Subjects were throughly awake in this buſineſſe, they would think they had much more cauſe to thank Vs for denying this Ordinance, then for granting all that Wee have granted. What is there elſe? Wee do not think Sir *Iohn Hotham* hath dealt well with Vs, in keeping Our Town from Vs; nor do take it kindly that Wee are robbed of Our Magazine, and Munition, but think of recovering both by force, becauſe Wee cannot have them otherwiſe; which will be an actuall levying war againſt Our Parliament. This Argument is ſufficiently vexed too: Our good Subjects will read the Meſſages, Anſwers, Votes, and Declarations, in this Caſe; and We are ſure upon the grounds laid to juſtify this Treaſon, no Subject in *England* hath a houſe of his own, which may

not to morrow be given to Sir *John Hotham* for as long a tearm as they think fit, and he may be sent to morrow to murther Vs, and be no Traytor; and they who shall shut the door against him shall be Delinquents. Is there no more? Yes, We will not submit to those nineteen dutifull and modest Propositions, which have been lately thrown at Vs, as the necessary means of removing Iealousies and Differences, and as the last Complement of all their Scorns and Injuries, that Posterity may see to what a tamenesse We were brought, when such things were asked of Vs. We will not be content, that all Our Officers and Ministers of State, be they never so faithfull to Vs, so affectionate to their Countrey, never so wise, never so honest, shall be immediately removed from Vs and their places, be disgraced, and undone, and in their rooms, these Gentlemen (who have taken all possible pains to destroy King and People) or such whom they shall recommend to succeed; That the same Faction may be carried through the whole Kingdom, which these men have raised in both Houses of Parliament; That all affairs of the Kingdom be managed, not only by their advice, but their absolute direction and command, lest any man should think himself Our servant; That the education and marriage of Our Children be committed to them, lest any Christian Prince should make addresses to Vs in such Treaties: In a word, that ingratitude to their modesty and duty for not deposing Vs, We will not now depose Our Self, and suffer the People and Kingdom (which God and the Law hath committed to Our government and Protection, and for which We must make an accompt) to be devoured by them. Sure

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these men think 'tis no affront to ask any thing.

But can Our good Subjects be longer kept in this Trance? Can the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, Commonalty of *England*, sacrifice their Honour, Interest, Religion, Liberty to Terms, and the meer sound of Parliament, and Priviledge? Can their Experience, Reason, and Understanding be captivated by words and assumptions contradictory to all principles? What one thing have We denied, that with reference to the publike peace and happinesse, were to be bought with the losse of the meanest Subject? And yet into what a Sea of blood is the rage and fury of these men launching out, to wrest that from Vs which We are bound (if We had a thousand lives to lose in the contention) to defend? Nay, what one thing is there that makes life precious to good men, which We do not defend, and these men oppose, and would evidently destroy? What grievance or pressure have Our People complained of, and been eased by Vs, which is not now brought upon them in an unlimited degree? Is the true reformed Protestant Religion, sealed by the blood of so many Reverend Martyrs, and established by the Wisdom and Piety of former blessed Parliaments, dear to them? Wee must appeal to all the world (being called upon by the reproaches of these men) whether Our own practice (the best evidence of Religion) and all the assistance and offers Wee can give, have been wanting to the Advancement of that Religion? And what can be more done by Vs, to satisfy and secure Our People in that point? On the other side, let all Our good Subjects consider, and weigh what preg-

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nant Arguments they have to fear Innovation in Religion, if these desperate persons prevaile, When the principall Men, to whose care and Authority they have committed the managery of that part, refuse Communion with the Church of *England*, as much as the Papists do; and have not only with that freedom they think fit to use, reproached the Book of Common Prayer, and the Government of the Church in their Speeches, but have published those speeches, in the view of all men, in Print, that the world might see by what measure and Rule the Reformation they so much talke of, is to be made; when such Petitions have been contrived by them, and accepted with publike thanks, which revile the book of Common Prayer, calling it a Masse-Booke, in scorne and contempt of the Law; whilest other Petitions for the government established by Law, have been rejected, discountenanced, and the Petitioners punished; And when two Armies were kept in the bowels of the Kingdom ten weeks, at the charge of fourscore thousand pounds a Moneth, for the countenance of a Bill to eradicate Episcopacy, *Root and Branch*; when such licence is given to Brownists, Anabaptists, and Sectaries; and whilest Coachmen, Feltmakers, and such mechanick persons are allowed and entertained to preach, by those who think themselves the principall members of either House; when such Barbarous Outrages in Churches, and heathenish irreverence and uproars, even in the time of Divine Service, and the Administration of the blessed Sacrament, are practised without controll; when the blessed means of advancing Religion, the preaching of the

Lord *Say.*

Word

Word of God is turned into a licence of Libelling and Reviling both Church and State, and venting such seditious Positions, as by the Laws of the Land are no lesse then Treason, and scarce a man in reputation and Credit with these grand Reformers, who is not notoriously guilty of this; whilest those Learned, Reverend, Painfull, and Pious Preachers, who have been and are the most eminent and able Assertors of the Protestant Religion, are (to the unspeakable joy of the Adversaries to Our Religion) disregarded and oppressed. Lastly, when for the healing and composing all these Distractions, and Distempers, in stead of a free and generall Synod of grave and learned Divines, which hath been so much talked of (and to whose deliberations We were, and are willing to commit the Consideration of those affaires) a Conference is desired with particular men, nominated by themselves, contrary to the Rights, and Practice of the Church: The Major part of whom (though We confesse, there are many reverend, learned, and pious persons amongst them) are not of learning nor understanding suitable to so great a worke, or are of known avowed disaffection to the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church; and of those who have preached Seditiously and Treasonably against Our Person and Authority, as Doctor *Downing* and others. Whoever from his soul desires a true examination and reformation in Religion cannot expect it from the results of these mens Counsels, nor thinke the true Service of God is like to be advanced or preserved by such practices. And all sober men must look with strange Horrour and Indignation upon the last Declaration of the

Lords and Commons, which after such unpresidented Outrages, and Violences against Us, publishes the ground of their taking up defensive Arms (as they call them) to be for the maintenance of the true Religion, The taking and keeping of *Hull*, Our Navy, Our Money, and Goods, The exercising of the *Militia*, and all the other Injuries We complain of, to be for the maintenance of Religion: But whosoever believs them to be for the preservation of Our Person, may believe the other too. Would men enjoy the Laws they were born to, the Liberty and Property, which makes the Subjection of this Nation famous, and honourable with all neighbouring Kingdoms? We have done Our part, to make a Wall of Brasse, for the perpetuall defence of them, whilest these ill men usurp a Power to undermine that Wall, and to shake those Foundations which cannot be pulled down, but to the confusion of Law, Liberty, Property, and the very life and being of Our Subjects.

Is the Dignity, Priviledge, and Freedom of Parliament (Parliaments whose wisdom and gravity have prepared so many wholsome Laws, and whose freedom distinguishes the Condition of Our Subjects from those of any Monarchy in *Europe*) precious unto Our People? Where was that freedom, and that Priviledge, when the House of Commons presumed to make Laws without the House of Peers, as they did in their Vote upon the *Protestation*, and of the ninth of *September*, when the House of Commons, and the House of *Peers* presumed to make Laws without Our Consent, as they have done in the businesse of the *Militia*, of *Hull*, in the behalf of their Champion,

Serjeant

Serjeant Major Generall *Skippon*, of the Earle of *Warwick*, of their new Generall, the Earle of *Essex*, (*with whom they will live and dye*) and many other Cases? Where was that freedom and Priviledge, when Alderman *Pennington*, and Captain *Venn*, brought down their *Mirmidons* to assault and terrifie the Members of both Houses, whose faces, or whose opinions they liked not, and by that Army to awe the Parliament; when those rude Multitudes, published the names of the Members of both Houses, as Enemies to the Common-wealth, who would not agree to their frantick Propositions; when the names of those were given, by Members of the House, that they might be proscribed, and torn in peeces by those multitudes; when many were driven away for fear of their Lives, from being present at those Consultations; and when Maister *Hollis* required the names of those Lords who would not agree with the House of Commons? Lastly, where was that Freedom, and Priviledge of Parliament, when Members of the one House had been questioned for words spoken in the House, and one freed, the other but reprehended by Vote of the major part, were again questioned by the other House, & a charge brought against them for these words? Is honour, Reputation, Freedom, and Civilitie to be esteemed? what causelesse defamations haue been raised and entertained upon Persons of quality, & unblemished estimation, upon no grounds, or appearance of reason, but because their opinions ran not with the Torrent? What caresses have been and are made to persons loose, vicious and debauched, of no vertue, no Religion, no Reputation, but of

malice, and ingratitude to Vs? Their names will be easily found out, by all mens observation, and their own blushes, though they shall not have the honour of Our mention. How have the Lawes of Hospitality and Civility been violated, the freedom and liberty of conversation (the pleasure and delight of life) been invaded by them; the discourses at tables, whispers in Gardens, and Walkes examined, and of persons under no accusation; Letters broken up (Our own to Our deerest Consort, the Queen, not spared) read publikely, and commented upon, with such Circumstances as makes Christendom laugh at Our follies, and abhor Our correspondence? Is peace and tranquility dear to Our Subjects? To shew that We have left no way to that (not destructive to Honour and Iustice) unattempted, We offered to lay down Our Arms upon no other Reparations for all the Indignities multiplyed upon Vs, then these, That they should lay down theirs, so unjustifiably taken, and We have Our own Town, Goods, and Navie (taken and kept by violence from Vs) to be peaceably restored to Vs, and the Power of making Laws without Vs by the way of Ordinances (which implies a Power, by Ordinance to depose Vs) and that in particular concerning the *Militia*, to be disavowed, and a safe place to be agreed on, where We might be present with Our great Councell, for the composing of all mis-understandings, and making this Kingdom happy: Which offers, not only were not accepted, but not so much as any Answer directed immediately to Vs, somewhat onely sent down by their under Clerk, which, with their first Petition and

Our

Our Answer (We are much pleased to hear) are ordered to be printed and read in all Churches (We desire no better evidence then Our and their writings and Actions, and no better Iudges and Witnesses then Our People, of Our love to Peace.) And even before this kinde of Answer came to Vs, whilest We, with patience and hope expecting such a return as We desired, forbore any action or attempt of Force, according to Our promise, Sir *Iohn Hotham* sallied out in the night, and murthered the persons of his fellow Subjects, and ever since in this Quarrell they labour to increase their Army, (the very levying of which is Treason) and are ready to march against Vs: Let all the world judge who are the lovers of Peace. Lastly, is the Constitution of the Kingdom to be preserved, and Monarchy it selfe upheld? Can any thing be more evident then that the end of these men is, or the conclusion, which must attend their Premisses, must be, to introduce a parity and confusion of all degrees and conditions? Are not severall Books and Papers (such as the *Observations upon parts of Our Messages*) published by their direction, at least under their countenance, against Monarchy it selfe? Is it possible for Us to be made vile, and contemptible, and shall Our good Subjects continue as they are? Can Our just Power be taken from Vs, and shall they enjoy their liberty? Whosoever is a friend to the Constitution of the Kingdom, must be an enemy to these men. How the benefit, advantages, and hopes of the Kingdom have been, and are advanced and promoted by these men, all good men see and discern. Let Vs consider now, whether all those grievances and pressures,

which Our Subjects have heretofore ſuffered under, and of wich Our Iuſtice and Favour hath eaſed them, be not, by the Faction and Tyranny of theſe men redoubled upon Our people. Were the conſciences of men grieved and ſcandalized at the too much formality and circumſtances uſed in the exerciſe of Religion? and are they not equally concerned in the uncomelineſſe, irreverence, and prophaneneſſe now avowed to the diſhonour of Chriſtianity? Were they troubled to ſee the Pulpit ſometimes made a Bar to plead againſt the Liberty and Property of the Subject, and are they not more confounded to ſee it ſo generally made a Scaffold, to incite the People to Rebellion, and Sedition againſt Vs? Have Our People ſuffered under, and been oppreſſed by the exerciſe of an Arbitrary Power, and out of a ſence of thoſe ſufferings have Wee conſented to take away the Star-Chamber, the High Commiſſion Courts, to regulate the Councell-Table, and to apply any remedies have been propoſed to Vs for that diſeaſe? And have not theſe men doubled thoſe preſſures in the Latitude and unlimitedneſſe of their proceedings, in their Orders for the Obſervation of the Law, as they pretend, and then puniſhing men for not obeying thoſe Orders in a way and a degree the Law doth not preſcribe? In their ſending for Our good Subjects upon generall Informations without proof, and for Offences which the Law takes no notice of; in declaring men enemies to the Common-wealth, fining and impriſoning them, for doing, or not doing that, which no known Law enjoyns, or condemns? Were the Purſuivants of the Councell Table, the delay and attendance

tendance there, or at the High-Commiſſion Court, the Iudgements and Decrees of the Star-Chamber more grievous, grievous to more perſons, more chargeable, more intollerable then the Serjeants and Officers Fees, the Attendance upon the Houſes and upon Committees, or, then the Votes and Iudgements which have lately paſſed in one or both Houſes? Let all the Decrees, Sentences, and Iudgements of the High-Commiſſion Court and Star-Chamber be examined, and any found ſo unjuſt, ſo illegall, as the proceedings againſt the Gentlemen of *Kent*, for preparing and preſenting a Petition agreeable in form and matter to all the Rules of Law and Iuſtice, by which men are to be informed to ask any thing, as the judgement againſt M. *Binyon*, that he ſhould be disfranchiſed, be incapable of ever bearing Office in the Common-wealth, impriſoned in the Goale at *Colcheſter*, for the ſpace of two years, and to pay three thouſand pounds fine, nothing being charged and proved againſt him that any Law or Reaſon could tell him he was not to do. Though the ſentences in the other Courts were in ſome caſes too ſevere, and exceeded the meaſure of the offence, there was ſtill an offence, ſomewhat done that in truth was a crime; But here Declarations, Votes, and Iudgements paſſe upon Our People for matters not ſuſpected to be crimes, till they are puniſhed. And have ſuch proceedings ever been before this Parliament? If Monopolies have been granted to the prejudice of Our people, the calamity will not be leſſe, if it be exerciſed by a good Lord, by a Bill, then it was before, by a Patent; and yet the Earle of *Warwick* thinks fit

to

to require the Letter-Office to be confirmed to him for three lives, at the same time that 'tis complained of as a Monopoly, and without the alteration of any Circumstance, for the ease of the Subject; And this with so much greedinesse, and authority, that whilest it was complained of as a Monopoly, he procured an Assignment to be made of it to him from the person complained of, after he had by his interest stopped the proceedings of the Committee, for the space of five Moneths before that Assignment made to him, upon pretence, That he was concerned in it, and desired to be heard: Of such Soveraign Power was his name, as it could be no longer a grievance to Our People, if it might prove an Advantage to him; A Precedent very likely to be followed in many Monopolies, if they may be assigned to Principall Members, or their friends; witnesse the connivence now given to Sir *John Meldrum*, for his Lights since his undertaking their Service at *Hull*. Have Partiality and Corruption in Judges obstructed the course of Iustice? was there ever such partiality, and corruption, when their fellow Members of either House are by them importuned and solicited for their Votes in causes before them, and no other measure or Rule to the Iustice of that faction, then the opinions of the persons contending? What sums of money have been given to, and what contracts have been made with some Members of either House, who are of this powerfull Faction We complain of, for preserving this man from being questioned, and promoting an Accusation against that man, for managing such a cause, and procuring such an order; We are very well able to give particular In-

Information, which we ſhall willingly doe, when there may be ſuch a ſober and ſecure debate, as becoms the Dignity and Freedom of Parliament, and the witneſſes, now within their reach, may neither be awed, nor tampered with before tryall. For how little care is there taken for diſcoveries of this nature, appears by that, which upon complaint of a ſlander againſt Maiſter *Pym* was juſtified, and the Author averred againſt him, for taking 30. pound Bribe to preſerve a Papiſt from legall proſecution, which hath been ſo long ſuffered to ſleep at a Committee.

Our Caſe is truly ſtated, ſo truly, That there is ſcarce any particular urged or alleadged by Vs, which is not known to many, and the moſt to all men. And muſt Our Condition be now irreparable? Are the injuries committed againſt Vs, and the Law, juſtifiable? And muſt We be cenſured for uſing all poſſible means to be freed from them, or to be repared for thē, becauſe they ſeem to carry the Name, Conſent & Authority of both Our Houſes of Parliament? There is not a particular of which We complain, that found not eminent oppoſition in both Houſes, and yet, for the moſt part, not above a Moity of either Houſe preſent. The Order of the 9. of *September* (an Order to ſuſpend the execution of Laws in force) paſſed, when there were not above Eighty Commoners (of which many diſaſſented) and but twenty Lords, whereof eleven (the Major part) expreſly contradicted it. The firſt unſeaſonable Remonſtrance (the fountain from whence all the preſent miſchiefs have flowed) was carried but by eleven Voyces, after fifteen houres ſitting, when above two hundred were abſent, and was never approved by the Lords. The buſineſſe of the *Militia*, was at

leaſt twice rejected by double their number in the Houſe of Peers, who conſented to it, there being no Popiſh Lord preſent, & twelve Biſhops in the Tower, and yet this propoſed again, the Houſe being made thin of thoſe Lords, who had formerly oppoſed it, who went out immediatly (it being their uſuall courſe, to watch ſuch opportunities, to effect their buſineſſes) after Maiſter *Hollis* his threats, & then carried. The Declaration againſt Vs, ſent to *Newmarket*, was carried but by one Voyce in the Houſe of Peers, and by a ſmall number in the Houſe of Commons. The juſtifying Sir *John Hotham*, in his Act of High Treaſon, was oppoſed by many Perſons of great worth, though neither Houſe had half it's number: And We are very far from cenſuring all thoſe Perſons who concurred in theſe or any other particulars; We beleeve very many of them ſtood not in ſo cleer a light, to diſcern the Guilt, Malice, Ambition, or ſubtilty of their Seducers; But if in truth there were a Conſent entirely in both Houſes of Parliament (as We are moſt aſſured, there will never be) to alter the whole frame of Government, muſt We ſubmit to thoſe Reſolutions, and muſt not Our Subjects help, and aſſiſt Vs in the defence of Laws & Government eſtabliſhed, becauſe they doe not like thē? Did We intend, when We called them to that great Councell, or did Our good Subjects intend, when they ſent them thither in their behalfs, That they ſhould alter the whole frame of Government according to their own Fancies and Ambition, and poſſeſſe thoſe Places during their Lives? What Our opinion and reſolution is, concerning Parliaments, We have fully expreſſed in Our Declarations: Wee have ſaid, & will ſtill ſay, they are ſo eſſentiall a part of the Conſtitution of this Kingdome, That

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We can attain to no happineſſe without them, nor will We ever make the leaſt attempt (in Our thoughts) againſt them. We well know that Our Selfe and Our two Houſes make up the Parliament, and that We are like *Hippocrates* Twins, We muſt laugh and cry, live & dye together; that no man can be a friend to the one, and an enemy to the other; the Injuſtice, Injury, and Violence offered to Parliaments, is that which We principally complain of: And We again aſſure all Our good Subjects, in the preſence of Almighty God, That all the Acts paſſed by Vs this Parliament, ſhall be equally obſerved by Vs, as We deſire thoſe to be which do moſt concern Our Rights. Our Quarrell is not againſt the Parliament, but againſt particular men, who firſt made the wounds, and will not now ſuffer them to be healed, but make them deeper and wider, by contriving, foſtering, and fomenting Miſtakes and Iealouſies betwixt Body and Head, Vs and Our two Houſes of Parliament; whom We name, and are ready to prove them guilty of High Treaſon. We deſire that the Lord *Kymbolton*, *M. Hollis*, *M. Pym*, *M. Hampden*, Sir *Arthur Haſlerig*, *M. Strode*, *M. Martin*, Sir *Henry Ludlow*, *Alderman Pennington* and Captain *Venn*, may be delivered into the hands of Iuſtice, to be tryed by their Peers, according to the known Law of the Land; if We do not prove them guilty of High Treaſon, they will be acquitted, and their Innocence will juſtly triumph over Vs: Againſt the Earle of *Warwick*, the Earle of *Eſſex*, Earle of *Stanford*, Lord *Brook*, Sir *Iohn Hotham*, Serjeant Major Generall *Skippon*, and thoſe who ſhall henceforth exerciſe the *Militia*, by vertue of the Ordinance, We ſhall cauſe Indictments to be drawn of High Treaſon upon the Statute of the 25 yeer of King *Edward*

the third. Let them ſubmit to the triall appointed by Law, and plead their Ordinances, if they ſhall be acquitted We have done. And that all Our loving Subjects may know, That in truth nothing but the preſervation of the true Proteſtant Religion invaded by Browniſme, Anabaptiſme, and Libertiniſme; the ſafety of Our Perſon threatned and conſpired againſt by Rebellion and Treaſon, the Law of the Land, and Liberty of the Subject, oppreſſed and almoſt deſtroyed by an Vſurped, Vnlimited, Arbitrary Power, and the Freedom, Priviledge, and Dignity of Parliament awed and inſulted upon by Force and Tumults could make Vs put off Our long-loved Robe of Peace, and take up defenſive Arms. We once more offer a free and a gracious Pardon to all Our loving Subjects who ſhall deſire the ſame (except the perſons before named,) and ſhall be as glad, with Safety and Honour, to lay down theſe Arms, as of the greateſt bleſſing We are capable of in this world. But if to juſtify theſe Actions, and theſe Perſons, Our Subjects ſhall think fit to engage themſelves in a War againſt Vs, We muſt not look upon it as an Act of Our Parliament, but as a Rebellion againſt Vs, and the Law, in the behalfe of theſe men, and ſhall proceed for the ſuppreſſing it with the ſame conſcience and courage, as We would meet an Army of Rebels, who endeavour to deſtroy both King and People: And We will never doubt to find honeſt men enough of Our mindes.

FINIS.

The true Copy of the Petition prepared by the Officers of the late Army, and Subscribed by His MAJESTY, with

C. R.

TO THE

KINGS Most Excellent MAJESTY, the Lords Spirituall, and Temporall, the Knights, *Citizens, and Burgesses now Assembled in the High Court of Parliament.*

The Humble Petition of the Officers, and Souldiers of the Army.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THat although our wants have been very pressing, and the burthen wee are become unto these parts (by reason of those wants) very grievous unto us, Yet so have wee demeaned our selves, That Your Majesties great and weighty Affaires in this present Parliamen, have hitherto received no interruption by any Complaint, either from us or against us; A temper not usuall in Armies (especially in one destitute not onely of pay, but also of Martiall Discipline, and many of its principall Officers:) That we

cannot but attribute it to a particular bleſſing of Almighty God, on our moſt hearty affection, and Zeale to the Common good in the happy ſucceſſe of this Parliament; to which as we ſhould have been ready hourely to contribute our deereſt blood, ſo now that it hath pleaſed God to manifeſt his bleſſing ſo manifeſtly therein, We cannot but acknowledge it with thankfulneſſe. We cannot but acknowledge his great Mercy in that he hath inclined Your Majeſties Royall heart ſo to cooperate with the wiſdom of the Parliament, as to effect ſo great and happy a Reformation, upon the former diſtempers of this Church and Commonwealth, As firſt in Your Majeſties gracious condeſcending to the many important demands of our neighbours of the Scottiſh *Nation. Secondly, in granting ſo free a courſe of Iuſtice againſt all Delinquents, of what quality ſoever. Thirdly, in the removall of all thoſe grievances wherewith the Subjects did conceive, either their Liberty of Perſons, Propriety of Eſtate, or Freedom of Conſcience prejudiced. And laſtly, in the greateſt pledge of ſecurity that ever the Subjects of* England *received from their Soveraign, the Bill of Triennial Parliament. Theſe things ſo graciouſly accorded unto by Your Majeſty, without bargain or compenſation, as they are more then expectation or hope could extend unto, ſo now certainly they are ſuch as all loyall hearts ought to requieſſe in with thankfulneſſe, which We do with all humility, and do at this time with as much earneſtneſſe, as any, pray and wiſh, That the Kingdom may be ſetled in peace and quietneſſe, and that all men may, at their own homes, enjoy the bleſſed fruits of Your Wiſdom and Iuſtice. But may it pleaſe Your Excellent Majeſty, and this High Court of Parliament, to give us leave, with griefe and anguiſh of heart,*

to represent unto You, that We hear, That there are certain persons stirring and practicall, who instead of rendring glory to God, thanks to His Majesty, and acknowledgement to the Parliament, remain yet as unsatisfied and mutinous as ever; who whilest all the rest of the Kingdom are arrived even beyond their wishes, are daily forging new and unseasonable demands: who whilest all men of Reason, Loyalty and Moderation, are thinking how they may provide for Your Majesties Honour and Plenty, in return of so many graces to the Subject, they are still attempting new Diminutions of Your Majesties just Regalities, which must ever be no lesse deer to all honest men, then our own freedoms. In fine, men of such turbulent spirits, as are ready to sacrifice the honour and welfare of the whole Kingdom to their private fancies (whom nothing else then a subversion of the whole frame of Government will satisfie.) Far be it from our thoughts to believe, that the violence and unreasonablenesse of such kind of persons can have any influence upon the Prudence and Iustice of the Parliament. But that which begets the trouble and disquiet of Our loyall hearts at this present, is, That we hear those ill-affected persons are backed in their violence by the Multitude, and the power of raising Tumults, That thousands flock at their call, and beset the Parliament (and Whitehall *it selfe) not only to the prejudice of that freedom which is necessary to great Counsels and Iudicatories, but possibly to some personall danger of Your Sacred Majesty and Peers. The vast consequence of these Persons Malignity, and of the Licentiousnesse of those Multitudes that follow them considered, in most deep care and Zealous affection for the safety of Your Sacred* MAJESTY *and the Parliament, Our Humble Petition*

tition is, that in Your wiſdoms, you would be pleaſed to remove ſuch Dangers, by puniſhing the Ring-leaders of theſe Tumults, and that Your Majeſtie, and the Parliament may be ſecured from ſuch inſolencies hereafter; For the ſuppreſſing of which, in all humility we offer our ſelves to wait upon You (if You pleaſe) hoping we ſhall appear as conſiderable in way of Defence to our gracious Soveraign, the Parliament, our Religion, and the eſtabliſhed Lawes of the Kingdom, as what number ſoever ſhall audaciouſly preſume to violate them, ſo ſhall we by the wiſdom of You MAJESTY, *and the Parliament not only be vindicated from precedent Innovations, but be ſecured from the future, that are threatned, and likely to produce more dangerous effects, then the former.*

And we ſhall pray, &c.

FINIS.